

December
2010

"This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child
wrapped in bands of cloth
and lying in a manger."



Luke 2:12, NRSV

Wood River First United Methodist Church

"To Create A Christian Environment
That Nurtures All People's Faith in
Jesus Christ"

TIDINGS

PASTORAL NOTES:

The nights grow longer; the air grows colder. In this season of darkness, we remember that God tenderly touched our bruised broken world and entered into our human frailty with the birth of Jesus. It's a time of joy, but can be a difficult time. In moments of this season when you are most keenly aware of your sorrows, or you are saddened by loss, or feel that you can not measure up to the expectations of the seasons, remember that God chose to become vulnerable like you and me. What could be more vulnerable than a newborn baby-except a man suffering and dying on the cross? Remember that God responded to our need-to the world's need – by giving us Jesus. I invite you to step aside from the busyness of the season for a moment of hushed silence and consider God's abundant love poured out through Jesus' birth and how God comes to be with you and with me right now.

May you have a blessed Advent and Christmas,

Rev. Theresa Mason

COMMUNITY CHOIR

The Wood River Community Choir will be performing a Christmas Musical, Night of the Father's Love, composed by Pepper Choplin on Sunday, December 12th at 2:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church at 11th and Dodd Street in Wood River. Pepper Choplin has beautifully blended his own originally composed music with some familiar Christmas Carols we have all grown to love.

The Director has incorporated two additional selections that add to the Christmas story of this lovely Cantata. My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord, written by Tina English and sung by a Soprano, Ella Brandt, reflects Mary's answer to the angel's announcement that she was to be the mother of Jesus. Venite Adoremus, Gesu Bambino, arranged by Ruth Elaine Schram, continues the angels rejoicing and urging of the Shepherds to come to worship the Lord.

Additional soloists for the Concert will be Cheryl Nielsen, an alto singing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", and Nathan Miller, a tenor, singing "Seeking the King". Accompanist for the additional pieces is Mary Aderholt. The Flutist for Venite Adoremus, Gesu Bambino, is Kelsey Woitaszewski.

The choir is sponsored in part by the Celebrate Wood River Performing Arts Council, The Wood River Foundation and the Donna Lee Moyer Performing Arts Gift. There will be no charge for the concert, however in order to help meet expenses and for future concerts, a free will offering would be appreciated.

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FINANCIAL NEWS

FINANCIAL NEWS

AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2010

	Month	Year to Date
Collections	\$11,419.44	\$93,609.21
Expenses	\$14,904.36	\$99,958.93

We were able to pay four months of our Mission Share giving in November with many thanks to the auction Committee. That means we have paid eight months total at this time. We still will owe for four more months by the end of the year. That amounts to \$8,900.00.

Thank you so much to all of you who have given so generously this year and a special thanks to those who worked so hard to make the auction a success.

Please continue your support so that we may once again fulfill our goals and support for the Missions of the United Methodist Church.

God's grace and blessing on each of you and our sincere thanks for helping our church provide support to people around the world.

~The Finance Committee

CIRCLE NEWS/UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Rachel Circle met November 4, 2010 with ten members. Sylvia McTavish called the meeting to order. Several read an opening. We Cant, But God Can, was ready by Catherine Miller. My Unfailing Friend, Marge Hibbert read. Count Your Blessings was read by Minnie Quisenberry and Someday was read by Mildred Southard. Catherine took roll all. We answered by reading a Bible verse. Hanny Cole read Matthew 8: 1-13. Prayer concerns and joys were given. Followed with a prayer by Mary Ann Apfel. Catherine read the October meeting minutes. Sylvia gave a report on the Election Day events. Our next meeting is December 2nd at Cairo. We will have our Christmas dinner at Aces and Eights at 11:30 a.m. Those that want to car pool, be at the Church at 11:15 a.m. The meeting was adjourned. The table decorations were great and lunch was delicious. Done by Mary Ann Apfel and Hanny Cole.

UMW met November 18th at 7:00 p.m. with 10 members with Rev. Mason attending the meeting. President Mary Bilslend opened the meeting with prayer and everyone saying the "Purpose" together. Jan Carter read the minutes and approved as read. Rita Earnest gave the treasurer report. Jan Carter made the motion to accept the treasurer report and June Watson second the motion all saying yes. Prayer calendar was given by Renae Graham. Prayer concerns were up lifted by President Mary Bilslend. Rita Earnest gave the lesson on World Thank offering. A nice lunch was served by Rachel Circle. The next meeting will be December 16th, noon for cookie plates. UMW meeting at 1:30 p.m. Lesson-Devotion by Rachel Circle and Hostess Ruth Circle.



United
Methodist
Women

All women of the church are invited to become part of United Methodist Women. For further information about United Methodist Women, contact Mary Bilslend at.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER

~ Rachel Circle Thursday, December 2nd at 11:30 at Ace and Eights in Cairo~

~ Ruth Circle Monday, December 6th at 6:30 pm Christmas Dinner ~

~Blood Mobile Tuesday, December 14th 12:30-5:30~

~UMW Thursday, December 16th Cookie Plates at 12:00 pm—Meeting at 1:30 pm~

AUCTION EXTRAVAGANZA

Thank you to the many people who helped support the Auction Extravaganza! We are humbled and impressed by the generosity of our congregation and community. Through Everyone's effort and support, we were able to raise almost \$5,000 for the Church! Thank you to the many people who donated items and time to the action. And thank you also to the action bidders...we hope you enjoy your acquisitions, knowing that your purchase helps the Church.

~The Auction Committee



SINGING CHRISTMAS TREE

Wednesday, December 1st the UMYF (middle & high students) will meet at the Catholic Church at 6:15 p.m. We will see the program with other youth groups in the area. Bring a friend and bring money for food after the program. Questions call Peg Heise, Joyce Willoughby, or Esther Rickert.

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

The next youth Bible study is scheduled for Sunday, December 5th at the Willoughby's home at 15499 W. Cedarview Road in Wood River. If you have any questions call Amber Willoughby at 583-2375.

SOUP AND PIE SUPPER

Alda will be having a Soup and Pie Supper on Sunday, December 12th from 5:00-7:30 p.m. at the Alda United Methodist Church. Come out and support the church's mission for the year with some great soup and pies. This is the evening of Church Conference.

CHILDREN SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

We will be rehearsing for the Christmas Program starting Sunday, December 5th during Sunday School. Children will be making animal masks, practicing for the program and learning a carol that they will be singing on Sunday, December 19th during worship at 9:00 a.m. There's a part for the youngest children through the 6th grade.

DECORATIONS

The Church is all decorated for Christmas, thank to the women who decorated on November 23rd. We thank Marilyn Denman, Betty Gall, Catherine Miller, Julie Ogden, Janet Snodgrass, Dianne Thompson, Joyce Willoughby, and Mona Luebs, coordinator of Christmas Decorations and visuals of the church!

CHAIR NEEDED...

The Alda church is looking for a used sturdy stuffed chair with arms for a member who needs that support for worship. If you have a chair that you don't need please let the Wood River Church office know. 583-2716

CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our Annual Church Conference is scheduled for Sunday, December 12th at 1:00 p.m. at our church in Wood River. We will be unveiling our goals for 2011, which a vision team put together based on the input that the congregation gave from the Interest Surveys. Rev. Harold Backus, Our District Superintendent will lead us and inspire us as we celebrate all we have done in 2010 and prepare for 2011. Plan to join us.

MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION

If you are interested in joining our church, the pastor will be offering a Membership Orientation after the first of the year. Let Pastor know if your interested.

BAPTISM

We welcome Sawyer James Thompson to our Christian family, who was baptized November 21st. Sawyer is the son of Brandon James Thompson and Brooke Renae Denman. His godparents are James & Julie Thompson and Daniel & Darcie Beed. His grandparents are Kim & Rhonda Denman and Miguel & Lori Rodriguez. Jim and Linda Thompson are his great grandparents.

READERS FOR WORSHIP

Would you like to be a reader on Sunday mornings? Youth and adults are invited to read scripture. You can sign up for the days that match your schedule. We also invite you to sign up for greeting, ushering and children for acolytes.



FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry committee had had a busy month. We were happy to deliver 26 food boxes to families in our community the Monday before Thanksgiving. We had a great response from our Church and 19 turkeys were donated including 10 from the staff at the Good Samaritan Center. We had donations of food and money from many individuals from the Church. The FBLA did a food drive for us in October that helped us stock our shelves. We are helping some families on a weekly and monthly basis so we continue to need help.

We will deliver food boxes again for Christmas on December 20th. We will need a lot of help to do this and any items you can spare will be appreciated. We will need boxes or sacks of cereal, boxes of potatoes mixes (mashed or others), vegetables, fruit, Jello, puddings, dry beans, rice, pasta, toiletries, tissues, toilet paper, paper towels and anything you use in your activities of daily living. We ask that you not donate items that are outdated because we can't use these.

We thank each of you that have donated to the food pantry. It is truly a worthwhile thing to do

The Food Pantry Committee:

Mary Ann Apfel

Darlene Boroff

Marian Davis

Lynne Leffler

Wanda Monson

Joyce Packer

MEET & EAT



JOIN US!
12 NOON
Thursday,
December 9th
Please call **Betty Thompson** or
Linda Thompson.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The Administrative Council wants to inform its members that Reverend Mason will usually be taking Monday as her regular day off. Please respect her day off when possible but she does want people to know that in case of an emergency, she will be available.

BLOOD MOBILE

The Wood River Blood Mobile will be held at the Wood River Methodist Church on Tuesday, December 14th from 12:30-5:30. Please call Rozella Sidders, June Watson, Linda Thompson or Mary Bilslend for an appointment. We can give one of the best gifts, the gift of life.

It is very hard for the Red Cross to get the necessary blood needed for the surgeries much less the emergencies needed over the holidays. You can help. Give blood.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Please keep these individuals and their families in your thoughts and prayers as they heal:

Angie Gill— surgery Eldon Mays
Rev. Peggy Hock—hospital Mary Ewoldt
Rev. Jack Sample— hospital Georgene Smidt's mother
Lori Webster
Loren Bilslend
Mary Hall
Rozella Sidders
Josh Bilslend
Junior Radney
Sam Sample
Roberta Slack

PRAYERS FOR GRIEVING

Please keep these individuals and their families in your thought and prayer as they grieve:

Family of Dezon Soto, Parents: AJ & Michelle Soto
Grandparents: Brian & Julie Hayes

Esther Rosacker— loss of sister Dora Wiese



PARISH NURSE

Tips for staying healthy thru the Holiday Season

It seems that as season as school begins, life take son a faster pace than before and with the holidays approaching, it becomes even more rushed and stressed. We see more people with runny noses, colds, flu and other illness. Here are some tips to help strengthen our immune systems to help us stay healthy or get well more quickly...

Diet plays a big role. Sugar decreases our body's ability to produce white blood cells which are so important in fighting infections, colds and the flu. Fast food which is usually high in calories but low in nutrients can weaken our immune system. Soda is also included in this Water should be our main drink with the aim for us to drink half our body weight in ounces per day. Excessive coffee irritates the gastrointestinal tract where the majority of our immune based lymphoid tissues reside. Since a major part of the immune system is in the gut, daily probiotic intake (lactobacillus acidophilus and bifidobacterium species) can help with the immune system. Yogurt is one way to get this.

It is okay to enjoy the holiday family meals but eat really well day to day between the holiday functions. Pace yourself so you don't indulge or a daily basis and eat lots of vegetables and fruits on a daily basis and avoid processed flour and sugar.

Getting enough sleep on a daily basis is also helpful to maintaining your strong defenses. Children need more sleep than adults. If you do feel like you're coming down with something, get as much sleep as you can and eat only healthy foods. Some take Vitamin C, zinc and if not pregnant, a small amount of Vitamin A. Regular exercise through the winter and holiday time also helps maintain our healthy immune system. And keep your stamina up. Vitamin D also helps maintain the immune system as well as for bone health and aid calcium absorption.

Some medications we take also interfere with our food absorption and processing so keep this in mind when planning your diet. Remember Grandma's advice, "Eat all your vegetables". It is still effective today.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 5:00 P.M.

CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH WITH

CAROLING

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE WITH VENTRILOQUISM

CANDLE LIGHTING

INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS AND YOUR FRIENDS

This year Worship Committee changed the time with Alda, for the 5:00 time so that people have time to worship and then go home to eat dinner and participate in Christmas Eve gatherings.



POINSETTIAS PURCHASED IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR
OF SOMEONE SPECIAL

Craig, Brenda and Adam Anderson, Cara & Torrey Odenbach

~Karen Anderson, Bud Fosket, Carolyn Grimes, George Fosket

Ivan & Mary Bilslend

~Lewis & Claudia Martin, Emma Bilslend

Don & Jan Carter

~Mr. & Mrs. Everette Shiers, Mr. & Mrs. John Carter, Special Friend Darlyne Sunburg

Mel & Rita Earnest

~Emma Bilslend, Guy & Lucille Earnest

John & Rev. Peggy Hock

~Mrs. Dee Hock, Mr. Billy Edward Smith

Janelle Landanger

~Marlene Dredge

John LeCompte & Rev. Theresa Mason

~Warren & Thelma Mason, Logan & Lillian LeCompte

Ron, Jodi, Jessica, Jocelyn & Jenna Rauert

~Jim & Leona Rauert

Marvin & Jane Rickert

~Art Rauert, Joe & Florence Rickert, Esther Rosacker

Don & Inez Rohrich

~King Family, Adolph & Mamie Rohrich

Rev. Jack & Linda Sample

~Timothy Sample, Vernon & Romona Morris, Ted & Iva Sample

Jerry Shears Family

~Vern Shears

Jim & Linda Thompson

~Joe & Frances Shay, Milford & Esther Thompson

Phil, Tracy, Andrew and Cassie Watts

~Russ & Karen Phelps, Ron "Boomer" Watts, Floe Watts, Anita Watts Brown

Dick & Marilyn Webster

~Carrie Elizabeth Oliver, Dorthey Webster, Helen Vogt

June Watson

~Elmer Waston



