



Monthly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church December, 2012

From under.....

The Redbud Tree

Inside this Issue

A Note from Pastor December Lay Readers Communion Servers Advent Readers Christmas Open House	2
Birthdays & Anniversaries Serving in worship for December Church Mice Ozark Center of Hope	3
Veteran's Day Dinner Pictures	4
Hanging of the Greens Thank You	5
The Angel Tree The Season of Advent Poinsettia Order	6
Person of the Month Thank You	7
Santa Claus is coming to town! Church chuckles Reminder	8
Financials	9
Last Page	10
Calendar	11

A Note From Pastor.....

Dear Church Family and Friends,

For the first time EVER, I decided not to put a Christmas tree up in my living room this year. Don't get me wrong, I have lots of the sparkly stuff of the season scattered all around, but there is no tree. A myriad of reasons developed as I made this decision. The tree I have is way too complicated to put together; my dog eats everything so she is sure to eat the lower branches (and decorations!) of the tree; I would have to string lights the old fashioned way, instead of the new way, which is to simply plug in an already lighted tree. And if I opted for a real tree instead of the plastic variety, I would live for 4 weeks with runny nose, itchy eyes and a sinus headache -- not my idea of a fun Christmas season.

I am glad that we put trees up in the church for Christmas. Some theologians think it is not appropriate, but actually, trees have a prominent place in Scripture. For example, Job proclaims "For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease."

Continued on page 2.....

.....Continued from page 1

The book of Daniel paints a poignant picture of the benefits of trees:

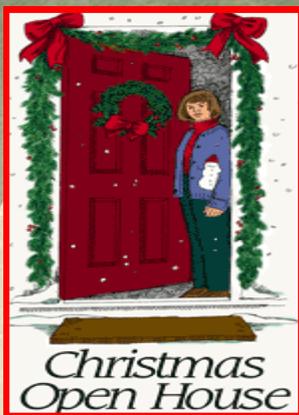
There was a tree at the center of the earth, and its height was great. The tree grew great and strong, its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the ends of the whole earth.

Its foliage was beautiful, its fruit abundant, and it provided food for all. The animals of the field found shade under it the birds of the air nested in its branches, and from it all living things were fed. (Daniel 4:10-12)

Christmas is a holiday especially appropriate for trees. Using evergreens at Christmas - box, bay, ivy, holly, juniper, pine, spruce, fir - was a medieval practice in Northern Europe. The greenery served as a devil-proof shield against all the evil forces of the universe because these species seem to refuse to die, that is, to give up their green foliage for the winter. Symbolically, we can think of Christmas trees as a reminder of Christ's presence as a Tree of Life that brings the possibility of eternal life back to all of humanity.

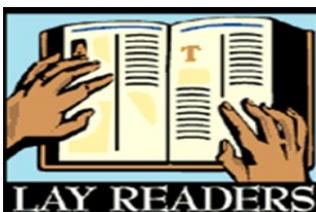
So, I say, let's deck the halls, let's decorate for the season to our hearts content! Let's display the symbols of our faith in Christ: the Christmas tree, the lights, the stars, the angels and the gifts. Yes, the season may be over-commercialized - at times we do get carried away. But it's still the time to joyfully remember and celebrate the birth of Our Savior, Jesus Christ. God with us! Emmanuel!

Have a blessed season,
Your Pastor,
Nancy Taylor



WELCOME!
When: December 19th
Where: Pastor's House
Time: 3 - 5 p.m.

Limited Parking...you are welcome to park at the church and car pool from there.



FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER:

December 2
December 9
December 16
December 23
December 30

Carolyn Hannon
Kathryn Templin
Sissy Wells
Doris Nichele
Sarah Kelly

Advent Readers
Dec. 2 Carolyn Hannon & Wana Thacker
Dec. 9 Gale & Janet Newman
Dec. 16 Wayne & Judy Faust
Dec. 23 Karen & Ralph Gillespie
Dec. 24 Nancy Priest & Nancy Pool

December Communion Server
Lillian Euers, Wayne Faust, Barb Hough, Joyce Johnson Nancy Pool, Fred Reed, Suzanne Smyth and Charlotte Cherry assisting Pastor Nancy

December Birthdays

- 1 Jack Coffman
- 2 Joyce Hofer
- 6 Ken Kunkel
- 6 Lois Craven
- 8 Marvin Sierck
- 11 Sarah Ruegsegger
- 16 Iona Weeks
- 17 Cornelius Drinkwaard
- 18 Frank Root
- 20 Mary Golden
- 22 Sarah Kelly
- 23 Velma Smith
- 27 Barbara Fink
- 28 Carolyn Saul

*If your birthday or anniversary is not listed
Please let us know so we will have you on
our master list.*

December Anniversaries

- 7 David & Vicky Buff
- 7 Wayne & Judy Faust
- 28 Phil & Ellen Jordan
- 30 Richard & Georgianne Tonne
- 30 Robert & JoAnn James

GREETERS

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| December 2 & 9 | Carolyn Saul |
| December 16 & 23 | Jan Larson |
| December 30 | Phil Jordan |

USHERS

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| December 2 & 9 | Pete & Sissy Wells
Sarah Kelly & Tom Rucker |
| December 16 | Patty Gamelin & Rodger
Buckels
Clint Minch & Wana Thacker |
| December 23 | Patty Gamelin & Rodger
Buckels
Clint Minch & Suzanne Smyth |
| December 30 | Robert & Yvonne Kilpatrick
Mari & Ian Ruegsegger |



Christmas Mouse!

This Special Christmas Mouse is busy all year through!! He is hard to spot but, always working in our Church doing things for us we seldom are aware of. He fixes the lights, hauls things away for us, he assembles things, he removes things, he repairs the electric staplers, he repairs the water fountain, he does the plumbing (most recently replacing the old toilet, for the girls, in the office restroom). As you see from the picture above this mouse has to keep a list of all he has to do for us. He is truly our Christmas Mouse!! Do you know this special mouse?

Assistance

The Ozark Center of Hope is in need of plastic sacks, (Wal-Mart, Harps, etc.) please bring to the center. Also, a black 4 drawer file cabinet. Please contact Sandra at 870-321-5101 if you have one you are not using.

Pictures from our Veteran's Day Dinner held November 12, 2012

**A happy group....sharing
Stories and memories!**



**Our prestigious Event
Co-ordinator.....Fred Reed!**



**Honor Board of military
family members of our
congregation.**

Hanging of the Greens

You won't want to miss this fun day with your church family....mark your calendars for Saturday, Dec. 1st from 10:00 –2:00 p.m. We will be meeting on that day for

“Hanging of the Greens” festivities

There will be carols, lunch, fellowship and we will decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Please come at your convenience and stay as long as you can. // Lunch will be served around noon. Men are Especially welcome, as we need “ladder climbers” and “box carriers”. In ages past the “Hanging of the Greens” was a special time for going out in the woods and gathering greenery and berries to adorn the church and celebrate the season. The Worship Committee is sponsoring this event and hopes that you will come and enjoy this time of preparation for the Advent Season together.

The latest on our Adopted Family

On Sunday, September 30, 2012 we were introduced to a family who desperately needs our help. A young mom, raising her two young boys by herself works hard, but because of the high cost of living these days, has had trouble making ends meet. On top of that, one of her boys is in need of medical attention which takes them to Little Rock for doctors' visits on a regular basis.

Thanks to the commitment that we made to adopt the family, we have made a *huge* difference in their lives already. Repairs, new tires and a new battery have made her car safe to drive to Little Rock. If you have purchased baby formula or diapers for the boys, you know already how costly they are. Gas is expensive and it takes a lot to get back and forth to Little Rock but thanks to the generosity of our church family, her gas tank is not on empty.continued top of page

.....continued

As Thanksgiving approached, it became apparent that the family would not be able to have a Thanksgiving meal at their house unless we shared our resources with them. We were able to provide turkey with all the trimmings – and Mom joyfully thanked us for our generosity! She is looking forward to meeting us and saying thank you in person, so we are planning a get together with some of our church members soon.

Christmas is coming and we have lots of suggestions for Christmas presents for the family. Practical things like coats, shoes and other clothing are great presents for the boys – the younger boy wears a size 2T and the older boy wears a size 4. But what is Christmas without a few toys? Anything appropriate for a 2 ½ year old and/or a 1 year old would be great! We are thinking Mom probably never buys anything for herself, so something for her might be nice, too. Or maybe some of us could join together to provide a Christmas dinner the family will never forget.

Slots are still available to purchase the necessities for the family – things like diapers, formula, paper goods, etc. You can find the sign-up sheet in the bulletin board in the hallway. There is no way to ever measure the huge difference we have made in one Mountain Home family's life. It's a good feeling – one we can enjoy together in this season of giving!



The
 Angel Trees
 with the names go up
 December 1st. We need
 to get all the gifts returned by
Sunday, December 16. Remember
 the items listed on the tags are suggestions,
 but we hope to give each child **a toy and some
 new clothing.** Please bring the gifts unwrapped and
 put them under the tree in the Fellowship Hall. We also
 ask that you sign the roster by the tree to tell us which name you
 took so we can keep track of all the children. Thank
 you, thank you to all who shop for our angels!
 We know your angel wings
 are fuller
 because
 of your help!



The Season of Advent

December 2 to December 25th

- Saturday Dec. 1 Hanging of the Greens 10-2 pm
- Wednesday Dec. 12 Christmas Party & Program - 5 pm
- Sunday Dec. 16 Christmas Cantata (during worship)
- Wednesday Dec. 19 Pastor Nancy's open house 3-5 pm
- Sunday Dec. 23 Christmas Joy Offering
- Monday Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service 5 pm
- Tuesday Dec. 25 Birth of Our Lord



Poinsettias for Advent

If you would like to order a Poinsettia in Honor of and/or in Memory of someone special, please fill in the following information and return this slip to the church office **on or before Thursday, November 29, 2012.** Please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church and your memo "Flower Fund" poinsettia. Orders cannot be confirmed until payment is received.
 Thank you, Worship Committee

COST: \$12.00

(This is the suggested amount of the poinsettia, however you are welcome to donate any amount over this which will go into the Memorial Fund).

I would like to purchase ___ Poinsettia (s).

Furnished by: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Special Person of the Month

VELMA SMITH

The special person for the month of December is Velma Smith. Velma is turning **100 years old** on December 23rd.

"Centenarian"

This is a person who lives to or beyond the age of 100 years. In 2009, the United Nations estimated that there were 455,000 living centenarians worldwide. The United States currently has the greatest number of known centenarians of any nation, estimated at 70,490 as of September 1, 2010. This corresponds to a national incidence of one centenarian per 4,400 people. Japan is second in the world.

So, as you can see this is an elite group of special people. We have one of those **elite** persons in our church family. Velma was born about 10 miles south of Macomb, Illinois. Although she attended school there she also attended one year in Los Angeles, CA. In Peoria, Illinois she enrolled in Beauty School and went on to work in a Salon. While in Macomb she was employed as a telephone operator. She also worked for International Harvester in Moline, Illinois.

Velma was married in Monmouth, Illinois. She has made her home here in Mountain Home for over 50 years. She has seen a lot of dirt and gravel roads get paved over these many years.

Throughout her life she has enjoyed sewing. She is a member of The Eastern Star and The Daughters of the Nile. When asked about gardening Velma stated "she is not the outdoorsy type". Her husband did all the outdoor stuff. Velma likes most television but enjoys the old musical variety TV shows like Andy Williams. Her favorite color is blue and when asked her favorite food her answer was "chicken".

Traveling was something Velma loved to do. That is evident by the wonderful trips she shared. She has traveled to Alaska, the Panama Canal, New Zealand, Austria and throughout Europe. When asked her favorite place to visit she stated "Sydney Opera House". She was most impressed by this famous Australian opera house.continued top of page

Velma still lives independently....and when I think of Velma I can only say

"Wow"

"What a life!"....Velma you inspire us...I think we all agree!

So, for this special Centenarian let's all be sure to send her our wishes. She is certainly entitled to at least "100" birthday cards!

11-16-2012

To My Church Family,

I sincerely wish to thank all of you for your acts of kindness with cards, visits, cookies and prayers. All of the gifts brighten my days.

All of you are remembered in my prayers too! My days here are long and I am bed-fast. Your gifts bring me a welcome break in the routine.

Please pray for those who care for me in their loving ways here at Hospice House.

Fran Bailey



Santa Claus *IS* coming to town!! (AND he's coming to our church Christmas Party)

The church Christmas Party will be held on Dec. 12th at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite ***“finger foods”*** or your favorite “goodies” to share. Beverages will be provided. We are asking each person to bring a cheap/funny (\$5.00 or less) “white elephant” item, gift wrapped, for a fun gift exchange. Come join us for a fun, festive celebration.....some surprises are in the plans. The E & O Committee.

CHURCH CHUCKLES.....

The teacher asked the children in her Sunday School class, “if I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would I get into heaven?”

“NO!” the children all answered.

“if I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would

I get into heaven?”

Again, the answer was “NO!”

“Well”, she continued, “then how can I get into heaven?”

In the back of the room, a five-year-old boy shouted out,

“You gotta be dead!”

Reminder:

December 1st 10-2pm Hanging of the Greens..

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

Ten Months Ending October 31, 2012

REVENUE	<u>ACTUAL MONTHLY</u>	<u>ACTUAL YR. TO DATE</u>
Pledges	\$8,877.00	\$111,328.00
Initial Offering	0.00	835.00
Interest	8.19	9817.28
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00
Loose Offerings	308.00	4,689.33
Sunday School	18.00	209.00
Fellowship Hall	250.00	250.00

Total Revenue	\$9,461.19	\$127,128.61
----------------------	-------------------	---------------------

EXPENSES		
Worship & Planning	\$200.11	\$1,900.33
Personnel	11,054.09	99,675.99
Evangelism & Outreach	0.00	1,003.99
Church Growth	135.40	2,994.81
Administration	652.14	10,284.65
Building & Grounds	1,126.69	22,472.95
Christian Education	0.00	1506.89
Strategic Planning	0.00	361.50

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$13,168.43	\$140,201.11
-----------------------	--------------------	---------------------

NET INCOME (LOSS)	(\$3,707.24)	(\$13,072.50)
--------------------------	---------------------	----------------------

CAPITAL MAINTENANCE CAMPAIGN INCOME

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2010/2011	\$30,344.00
2012 to Date	10,295.00
Total To Date	\$40,639.00

DECEMBER, 2012



Church Office Hours
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday

Church Mailing Address
1106 Spring Street
Mountain Home, AR 72653
870-425-3799

fpcmh@centurytel.net
Website: www.fpcmh.net

Pastor
Reverend Nancy L. Taylor

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Secretaries:
Connie McLaurin,
Helen Harding,
Carolyn Saul

**First Presbyterian Church
1106 Spring Street
Mountain Home, AR 72653**



**RETURN
SERVICE
REQUESTED**