



# RIVERSIDE CURRENT

Volume 7 Issue 11

December 2010

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

### Liturgists:

- Dec. 5 — Ann Harshbarger  
 Dec. 12 — Jean Montgomery  
 Dec. 19 — Thomas Montgomery  
 Dec. 26 — Rebecca Bliss

### Greeters & Ushers:

- Dec. 5 — Barb & Larry Robertson  
 Jana Hausch, Angie Peterson  
 Dec. 12 — Lauren Bliss, Ann Harshbarger, Rebecca Bliss, Mike Mauzy  
 Dec. 19 — Dena & K.J. Cannon, Kim Terry, Bruce Brandt  
 Dec. 26 — Gary & Barb Altgiber  
 Steve & Jeanne McMahan

### Acolytes:

- Dec. 5 — Gabe Miller, Molly Montgomery  
 Dec. 12 — Gracie Briscoe & Emily Fuller  
 Dec. 19 — Anthony & Elizabeth Potratz  
 Dec. 26 — Drew Hymes, Ethan Marshall

### Nursery Helpers:

- Dec. 5 — Karen Wetzel, Sara Shaffer  
 Dec. 12 — Karen Wetzel, Amber Terry  
 Dec. 19 — Karen Wetzel, Barb Robertson  
 Dec. 26 — Karen Wetzel, Kay Floyd

Elder Host: Dena Cannon

**Blessed Holidays!!!**



*If you are unable to serve as listed, please find a substitute and inform the church office.*

*If you'd like to serve in one of these areas, please let us know! Thanks!*

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

### *From our Pastor...*

*"Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O Lord " Psalm 89:15*

If you ask people to reflect on their favorite Christmas memory you will find that they do not talk about presents. They talk about people. They talk about people because it's not the gift we cherish, but the giver. The best Christmas gift you can give to someone is you — your time, your attention, your presence.

This Christmas— give yourself. Go on a date with your spouse, just the two of you. Take your child to a basketball game. Visit a friend. Take your elderly parent or friend out for breakfast. What we most want at Christmas is not presents, but presence.

Presence is what Christmas is all about in the first place — God giving the gift of himself. To show God's love for the world, God does not send a gift. Rather, God is the gift. "You shall call his name Emmanuel" the angel said to Joseph, "which means God is with us." Christmas is all about presence — God with us, and we with each other.

Christmas is the present of God's presence. In a world that is preoccupied with getting and giving presents, let us focus on the gift of God's presence with us, and our presence with one another.

Presence is a reality of our relationship in Christ. It is the gift of listening to each other, sharing deep pain and deep faith. It is "being there," reaching out, holding each other in love. It is forgiving and being forgiven. It is discovering the grace of God in our life together.

Money can't buy this gift. But it is the greatest gift you and I can receive this Christmas. May this Christmas season be a most joyous celebration of all God's gifts, especially that of Jesus Christ and of sharing with one another— the gift of presence.

Merry Christmas! Pastor Alice



# DECEMBER EVENTS

## “A CELEBRATION OF LOVE”

On December 5, 2010 at 2:00 P.M. at DeJong’s Funeral Home in Keokuk., there will be a Celebration of Love program.

We hope the program will give comfort and strength to those who attend.

Included in the program will be a reading of the names of the loved ones whose families our funeral home has served in the past year. Also in the program will be a reading of names that are requested. Following will be a candle-lighting and presentation of personalized remembrance gifts. Any questions call Dirk, Terry or Sonia at 524-2340.



Candle, Carols, and Communion

December 24th at 7:00 P.M.

Come Celebrate the **Birth of Jesus**

## Christmas Joy Offering

December 19, 2010



## Presbyterian Women’s

Annual

Food Sale and Tea



Saturday, December 4

9 to 11:30 a.m.

FROZEN CASSEROLES AND SOUP

APPLE CRISP

BAKED GOODS

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



## Our STAR for DECEMBER

(Spontaneous Thanks And Recognition)

We select a different individual or family each month to receive our STAR! Our STAR for December is **Jeanette Williamson**

Jeanette lives at 1913 Grand Avenues in Keokuk

We want to get creative and heap STARS on her! Here are some ideas:

- ☆ Send a card
- ☆ Bring a treat
- ☆ Deliver a meal
- ☆ Give a gift certificate
- ☆ Wrap up a small gift
- ☆ Call to let her know she is loved and appreciated




24th Annual Keokuk Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner  
 For Citizens 60 or over. Wednesday, December 15th at Noon  
 First Christian Church, 3476 Main Street.  
 Special Entertainment  
 Call for reservations —524-2542, ext. 1004  
 Bus transportation is available

Operation Christmas Child

This mission was a huge success. Our church family prepared 30 shoeboxes. This exceeded our goal of 25!! Thank you so much for participating in this project to help needy children all around the world have a happier Christmas and receive a touch of God's love. I also appreciate all of the monetary donations that were given to help with the high cost of shipping these boxes. This is just one example of how our church family works together for a worthy cause! Thank you again.

Dena



**Notice**  
*Food Pantry will be on, Thursday, December 16th, because of Christmas*  
  
*God Bless*

# Church Family News

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* **PRAYER CONCERNS** \*  
 \* \*  
 \* Melody Burke \*  
 \* Olive Davis \*  
 \* Billy Jutte \*  
 \* Dorothea Kultala \*  
 \* Bonnie McLaughlin \*  
 \* Amber Myers (Bobby Myers' daughter) \*  
 \* Kevin Peterson \*  
 \* Chris Wright \*  
 \* Jo Anne Yoder \*  
 \* Terry Dunn (Cousin of Steve Dunn) \*  
 \* Judy Davis (Cousin of Steve Dunn) \*  
 \* 832nd Engineer Company in Afghanistan \*  
 \* Missionaries around the globe \*  
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## FINANCIAL REPORT

October 1 through November 1, 2010	
<b>Deposits</b>	
Contributions	\$ 4,300.00
Investments	5,854.56
Other Income	
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>10,154.56</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Pulpit Supply	225.00
Organist	360.00
Building/Maintenance	5,103.98
Property Ins.	1,519.75
Utilities	250.63
Postage	
Telephone/Internet	112.32
Copier Lease	40.18
Supplies	
Sunday School	
Deacons	
Outreach	104.60
Payroll	2,037.05
Other	77.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>9,830.51</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>324.05</b>

## Decembers Birthdays

- 1 Leroy Guymon
- 6 Gabby Brooks  
Abby Brooks
- 8 Bill Jutte
- 9 Ken Salle
- 10. Bill Gassaway
- 11 Mark Washburn
- 13 Johnna Erbes
- 16 Yvette Bliss  
Eloise Mc Walters
- 23 Jane Fowler
- 30 Barbara Robert-  
son Robin Thomson



## Anniversaries

- 1 Mr. Leroy Guymon
- 20 Mr. & Mrs. George Norman
- 25 Mr. & Mrs. Ken Salle



### A Note From the Food Pantry

We had 31 people come to the Food Pantry in November! The attendance has really increased and probably will for the winter. Kathy had a number of calls for food, but we have set a policy to only give on the 4th Thurs. of the month, except for special emergencies. More volunteers are needed to help purchase the food, stock the shelves, and to help on the day of Food Pantry.

There are funds in the account but the people always ask for meat and usually all we have are hot dogs and bologna. Items really needed are meat, dish soap, washing soap, toilet paper, beside the usual items of food.

There is a sign up sheet if anyone would like to volunteer. Thanks, Joann

# ***CHRISTIAN EDUCATION***

## **Youth Director Message**

The celebration of the Advent season is now upon us and the most favorite holiday of the year for the children, "Christmas". The youth will be busy this month celebrating Advent and learning about the "Hope", "Peace", "Joy", and "Love" of the holiday season. We will also be preparing and practicing our Children's Christmas Program, "When Love Came Down at Christmas". This program is for youth of all ages, so please plan to be in attendance at church on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. to encourage and support our youth. Also this month, the older youth will be passing out flyers to neighborhoods and area churches on Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. This project is to promote our food pantry and collect non food items (but very essential) such as toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, toilet paper, shaving crème, razors, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, diapers, etc. We will be collecting any items that cannot be purchased with food stamps, but are very essential and necessary to personal hygiene. The older youth will be collecting these items on Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. If you would like someone to stop by your house to pick up your donation, please let Meg McGhghy or me know. We'll be happy to come by; or, please feel free to bring any of these items to church and place in the food pantry boxes outside of the church office. After the Christmas program on the 19<sup>th</sup>, the youth programs will be taking a break. There will be no Sunday school or Youth group activities Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> thru Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011. We will resume Sunday school on January 9<sup>th</sup> and Youth groups on Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Dates to remember:**

December 8<sup>th</sup> – Older youth to pick up food pantry essentials

December 19<sup>th</sup> – Children's Christmas Program 10:30 a.m.

December 22 thru January 5<sup>th</sup> – No Sunday school or Youth programs

January 9<sup>th</sup> & January 12<sup>th</sup> – Sunday school and Youth programs resume!

Have a safe and blessed holiday season!

Dena Cannon



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"THE CHURCH BY THE RIVER"

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# Riverside Current

DECEMBER 2010



## His Gift

For the lowly beast in the stable chill  
And the humble shepherd on the hill  
Wise and wealthy Magi from the east  
The purpose of every Christmas feast  
Is to rejoice and feel your spirits lift  
Exchanging love when exchanging gift  
For when Jesus lay in that stable stall  
He gave us his love, the greatest gift  
of all