

Hey Youth!

Don't miss all the chances we have to celebrate as a church family this Advent and Christmas! Especially mark your calendar for our youth Christmas party on Wednesday night, December 18th. Bring your favorite Christmas treat (snack or drink) to share, and invite a friend to join us for a fun and festive time together!

Calling All Kids!

The Children's Choir is busy preparing for Christmas! Be in the Choir Room at 7:00 on Wednesday night, December 4th for your last rehearsal before your big program! We look forward to your program on Sunday night, December 8th!



It's time again for the youth-sponsored post office. You can mail your church family Christmas cards for 25¢ each card or a donation of your choosing to Lottie Moon or Global Missions. The post office will operate from Dec. 1st – Dec. 22nd.



December Birthdays

12/1	Faye Lakey
12/3	Mark Reavis
12/4	Heather Dortch, Delese Venable
12/5	Hannah Litaker, Bennett Lysse
12/7	Bob Spencer
12/11	Zachery Beaver
12/12	Edna Bond, Vicki Boyce
12/15	Marty Daniels
12/17	Jerry Haynes
12/19	Kathryn Ashworth
12/20	Elvert Lakey
12/21	Andy Smith
12/22	Jackson Striplin
12/24	Ethan Reavis
12/27	Avery Lindley, Tammie Weavil
12/28	Robin French, Russell Grose
12/31	Clinton McCann

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Schedule of Christmas Events

Dec. 1, 6:00pm – Chrismon Service

Dec. 4, 6:15pm – International Supper

Dec. 8, 6:00pm – Children's Christmas Program
"A Shepherd's Story"

Dec. 11, 7:00pm – Service of Solace

Dec. 15, 11:00am – Adult Choir Christmas Cantata
"Christ Was Born For This"

Dec. 15, 6:00pm – Christmas Fellowship

Dec. 22, 6:00pm – Candlelight Communion Service

Dr. H. Mark Ashworth
 Rev. Erin Lysse
 Mrs. Gayle Wimbrow
 Rev. Marty Daniels
 Mrs. Angie Weavil
 Mrs. Becky Longworth
 Mrs. Teresa Tucker

Pastor
 Minister to Families
 Minister of Music
 Minister of Education
 Organist
 Pianist
 Secretary



Mark's Musings

As I'm writing this, the roofers are finishing up putting the new roof on the Fellowship Hall building. That naturally got me to thinking about roofs and shelter. And Cleo. Cleo is one of our cats. We rescued her in Florida. She was living in an old shed near our house, a shed that looked like it was about to collapse (and eventually did). I'm sure the roof leaked. But it was shelter—not very good shelter, but shelter nonetheless. And Cleo put up with it because she really didn't have much choice.

Psalm 91 begins with these words: "Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'" You and I have the amazing choice to dwell in the shelter of the loving God. We can know true security, true peace, true love in the presence of God. And we can see what God's care and God's provision look like in the face of Jesus. Jesus. Emmanuel. God with us. Jesus our Brother. Jesus our Savior. Jesus, whose own first home was the rather crude shelter of a stable. May this season of Advent and Christmas call us once again to celebrate the shelter of God's steadfast love and faithful presence---a shelter under which we all are welcome.

Grace and peace,
Mark

2014 Budget Presentation

The Budget Committee will present the 2014 Budget at Church Conference on Wednesday, December 18th, at 7:00 pm. The budget will be handed out on Sunday, Dec. 1st, so you should have time to review it prior to the conference. Your prayerful consideration of increasing your giving for 2014 will insure we meet & exceed our goals. After discussion on Wednesday, we'll vote before worship Sunday, December 22nd.

Senior Moments Highlights

On Tuesday, December 12th, at 9:00am we are going to Hamrick's. Our Christmas luncheon will be on Thursday, December 19th, at ChopStix. We will leave the church at 11:00am. As you are planning your holiday baking remember that **Happy Home Flavorings** are for sale. Come by the Adult Education Building to see available flavors.

Nursery Schedule

December 1, 2013 (Sun)	Kathy Idol AM
	Alice Striplin PM
December 4, 2013 (Wed)	Brenda Grose PM
December 8, 2013 (Sun)	Marianne & CC Casas AM
	No Nursery PM
December 11, 2013 (Wed)	Edna Bond PM
December 15, 2013 (Sun)	Melissa Little AM
	No Nursery PM
December 18, 2013 (Wed)	Nancy Clodfelter PM
December 22, 2013 (Sun)	Kathy Horton AM
	No Evening Activities PM
December 25, 2013 (Wed)	Merry Christmas! PM
December 29, 2013 (Sun)	Alice Striplin AM
	No Evening Activities PM

Children's Church & Wee Church Schedule

December 1 (Children's)	Julie Striplin & Dale Lakey
December 1, (Wee)	Jane Sutphin
December 8, (Children's)	Erin Lyse
December 8, (Wee)	Susie Hilton
December 15 (Children's)	Carole Blakley & Ann Canada
December 15, (Wee)	Tina Church
December 22, (Children's)	Randy & Cathy Honeycutt
December 22, (Wee)	Sharon Thompson
December 29, (Children's)	Mike Simmons
December 29, (Wee)	Mike Simmons

Financial Summary

	November 3, 2013	
Undesignated Gifts		\$ 5,369.59
Designated Gifts		\$ 1,298.05
Total Offering		\$ 6,667.64
	November 10, 2013	
Undesignated Gifts		\$ 4,344.00
Designated Gifts		\$ 467.67
Total Offering		\$ 4,811.67
	November 17, 2013	
Undesignated Gifts		\$ 3,088.00
Designated Gifts		\$ 2,583.54
Total Offering		\$ 5,671.54
	November 24, 2013	
Undesignated Gifts		\$ 3,273.00
Designated Gifts		\$ 206.15
Total Offering		\$ 3,479.15

General Fund

October General Fund Receipts	\$ 15,928.83
October General Fund Expenses	- \$ 19,928.83
October General Fund Net	- \$ 3,649.35
October Fund Balance	- \$ 24,557.66



Once again it is a pleasure to report the ladies baked so very generously for Hospice. Also, the snack and breakfast item donations were overwhelming. A very special thank you goes to each and every one who made the endeavors of our church so successful. Make a note our next "Cookies for Hospice Sunday" will be **December 8**.

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes project was also a success, in that there were 22 boxes filled and delivered. Just imagine a youngster's smiling face when your box is opened. Please remember not only during the Christmas season, but throughout the upcoming year to pray for "your" child and his/her family.

At the November meeting, the plight of Marianne's family following the recent Philippine disasters that left her parents, sister, grandmother and other extended relatives without homes and other sustenance items was discussed. We are so very grateful their lives were spared, but their material needs are great and it was agreed that we would use \$100 of the WOM funds to assist with the Philippine relief efforts.

It was also agreed that we would use \$200 of the WOM funds to purchase toys for the Baptist Toy Store. As mentioned before, the PMBA Toy Store provides toys to needy children birth through middle school teens in our local area. Collection baskets are located in the Office/Educational Building and will remain until the **December 8 deadline**. Please keep in mind if you want to participate, but don't personally wish to shop, see Jane for assistance in this regard as well.

There was \$235 donated for the W-S Rescue Mission's Thanksgiving Meals and now collection is under way for the Christmas Meals.

Wednesday night December 4 will be our annual supper sponsored by the WOM in tribute to missionaries everywhere. Each family attending is asked to bring a pot of homemade soup or salad for this meal. There will be a brief WOM meeting following the supper.

As we enter the Christmas season, let us all keep Christ first and others second as **UNION CROSS REACHES OUT TO SHOW HIS LOVE**.

