



The Good News

December, 2013



FAITH TALK

with Brother Jaimie J. Alexander

Welcome to Our World, song by Chris Rice

*Tears are falling, hearts are breaking
How we need to hear from God
You've been promised, we've been
waiting*

*Welcome Holy Child
Welcome Holy Child*

*Hope that you don't mind our manger
How I wish we would have known*

*But long-awaited Holy Stranger
Make yourself at home
Please make yourself at home*

*Bring your peace into our violence
Bid our hungry souls be filled
Word now breaking Heaven's silence*

*Welcome to our world
Welcome to our world*

In the recent days, we have heard about tornados in Illinois, typhoons in the Philippians, remembered the assassination of President John F. Kennedy 50 years ago, read about disagreements over political issues, and I could go on, but these concerns do not make me think of Christmas. When I think of Christmas, I think of lights, snow, wrapped presents, decorated cookies, homemade candy, Advent worship services, and most of all the birth of Jesus Christ. Just as there is chaos in the world today, there was chaos when Jesus was born. The word's of Chris Rice's song "Welcome to Our World" help us to reflect on why we celebrate God's love in a human form through the gift of Jesus Christ. Jesus is our peace in a violent world, our healer for our injured flesh, and the one who destroys our sin despite our sinful nature. We distort the coming of Jesus Christ and devalue his coming to bring salvation, redemption, peace, transformation, healing, hope, joy, grace, and love when we make Christmas into a holiday where we are more concerned with a Christmas party than the celebrating the Christ Child! This Advent season we will focus on the why Jesus came as we once again "Welcome Him into our World" as we celebrate God's gift of love in human form!

God is faithful,

Bro. Jamie J. Alexander



OFF AND RUNNING

The Blessings of 2013

I am pleased to report that 2013 has been a productive year of ministry personally and at First United Methodist Church Bella Vista. In January I was blessed to be part of a medical mission trip to Guatemala with First United Methodist Church of Fort Smith. This trip allowed me to reconnect with the Central American mission field and experience leading a group of volunteers on a foreign mission. I was approved for ordination and ordained at Annual Conference in June. Ordination was a great experience that once again affirmed my call to ministry and service within the United Methodist Church. This year has also been a time of learning and experimenting with my personal devotions, study and prayer. God has challenged me to fully understand my ministry within the context of my church, community and family.

I cannot express enough thanks to First United Methodist Church of Bella Vista. The congregation, staff and Senior Pastor Brother Jaimie have supported me and my family without question in all our missions and ministry. I am truly blessed to be appointed in a ministry field with so many opportunities and a supportive congregation.

We have accomplished a tremendous amount of progress with our children and youth ministries in 2013. Hopefully everyone has been able to see our physical changes downstairs with the completion of our new youth area. Changes to our children's area are still ongoing. I'm confident that improvements will continue to occur in both areas due to our strong lay leadership from Kristen Crider, David Hanson and all their devoted volunteers.

2014 Here We Come!

My focus for 2014 will be switching slightly from our youth and children to more family focused. In November we started a new gathering time for members and visitors after our 9:30 worship. This sermon discussion time is called "Life After Church". Following our church mission to Love, Learn and

Lead, "Life After Church" will be a time of learning and connections. I'm hopeful this gathering time will provide people the opportunity to grow as disciples in order to lead others. As we learn together we form bonds of friendship and accountability.

Stay tuned for more opportunities to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Our church is preparing to transform the world by the grace of God and you are invited to become a part of this transformation.

Faithfully,
Pastor Lee



FAMILY

rEcess is coming to FUMCI!

The program rEcess is a special night out for parents of children with special needs. Once parents have registered their child and are accepted into the program, they can drop off their special needs child plus any siblings to have a free night of rest. The first rEcess is coming up soon, on Friday, December 13 from 5:30-9:30 pm. Volunteers are needed to work with children. No prior experience is needed, and training will be provided. Contact Andrea Myane at andrea.myane@nwasunshineschool.org to volunteer or talk to Kristin. For more information about the inspiration behind this program, visit 99balloons.org/recess





CHILDREN

Children's Christmas Program – A 1940's Radio Broadcast of "The Case of the Missing Christmas"



WJOY Radio is all joy, all the time! We will be broadcasting a live performance of The Gumshoe episode "The Case of the Missing Christmas". Miss Placed as misplaced

Christmas and she turns to Gumshoe to help her find it!

The program will be held on Wednesday evening, December 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Cookies and Hot Chocolate will follow in Becker Hall.

Our kids are really embracing our Orphan project. On November 16, six families gathered to make "collection jars" for St. Catherine's Orphanage in Mumbai, India. A total of 35 jars were made and all of them were picked up on Sunday, November 17! We continue to pray for our local orphans, Malachi and Joshua and invite the entire congregation to join us.



The Children and Youth will host an Indian Fundraising Dinner in Becker Hall on January 25 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. in Becker Hall. There will be a presentation about the orphanage, traditional Indian dancing by children and Indian cuisine prepared by the NWA Indian community. There will be a mix of food that will appeal to most palettes! All proceeds will go to St. Catherine's home.

The signs of Christmas are all around us by now. Whether you seek to surround yourself with the beauty, tastes, smells or sounds of Christmas, children play a big role for many adults in remembering the joyful exuberance of life and wonder of this season! We invite you to experience Christmas with the children of the church through the month of December.

Christmas Program Practice will continue Sunday's, following the 9:30 service on December 1, 8, 15.

The Children will sing Christmas carols during The Well Worship service on December 15

The Christmas Program, "Broadcasting Christmas" will be held December 18th at 6:30 pm, with cookies and hot cocoa to follow

We will gather to carol Saturday, December 21. All families and church members are invited! The more the merrier! Be on the lookout for times to gather.

Whether you decide to step in to help at practice, attend the program or join us for caroling, your part in a child's life is sure to enrich this Christmas season..

YOUTH

October was a busy month for our Youth. Showing off our new Youth room during the Open House for EMIM Sunday; Hosting a Shut-In at our church that 28 youth attended; Our youth have volunteered to do yardwork for our members—about half of the requests have been filled. Be patient—the rest will get done.

The new youth room got great reviews and the youth are really feeling at home. Below is a list of items we are still in need of. If you think the youth could use it, we will. Please feel free to contact David Hanson at dwhanso@gmail.com with any suggestions or ideas.

- Pencils (regular and color)
- Markers
- Paper (lined, printer, and color)
- Scissors, (adult size)
- DVD movies (biblical or PG-13 and under)
- Color printer (new one)
- Mini fridge (new or used)



HIGHLIGHT



Dr. Larry Zehring was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma and grew up in Vinita where his father owned an auto dealership.

He attended the University of the Ozarks where he received his BA in Music. He received his master's degree at University of Tulsa. He entered the military serving in the Coast Guard in 1964 and

was stationed at Sabine Pass, Texas.

Larry and Annette met at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville and were married in Vinita in 1965. Annette's degree is in Library Science from the University of Oklahoma at Norman.

After his discharge from the Coast Guard they went to Saranac Lake, New York where he taught high school music and she taught junior high music.

After leaving public school teaching he toured the United States and Europe for several years, singing professionally with the Gregg Smith Singers. They made many recordings and won five Grammy awards. He sang baritone with the group.

The next step in his career was teaching music on the college level, first at Bridgewater College in Bridgewater, Virginia and vocal and choral music at Tarkio College at Tarkio, Missouri in northwest Missouri. His last college teaching position was at Ft. Hayes State in western Kansas. He is a member of the Academic Honor Fraternity Pi Kappa Lambda and the Professional Music Fraternity Phi Mu Alpha.

Prior to coming to the First United Methodist Church of Bella Vista he was with the University of Missouri in the Conservatory of Music and Dance Performing Arts School in Kansas City, receiving his PHD in Musicology and Conducting in 1990.



When he first came to this area he was with the First Christian Church in Rogers. A member of one of the choral groups he was leading told him there was an opening at our church and at first he thought he wasn't interested in making a change. But in 1993 he began his duties as Director of Music Ministries with the First United Methodist Church of Bella Vista. He is in charge of all things musical including but not limited to Choir Director, interviewing and hiring necessary personnel, purchasing the music, providing special music for services, contacting and planning the performances of outside groups, getting the pianos tuned, and whatever else is needed in the department. He originally directed the bell choir but knew Dawn Thompson had more experience in this area and persuaded her to take over those responsibilities.

Dr. Zehring has many other connections in the area. He has directed the Bella Vista Women's Chorus for 25 years. He was Executive Director of the Mashburn Foundation of Music Scholarships which presents 12 to 15 scholarships per year. At one time he directed the Northwest Arkansas Chorale and assisted the Bella Vista Village Players with several musical productions. He has cut back slightly on some of those activities, citing overload.

Outside of his all consuming world of music, when time and responsibilities permit, Larry and his wife like to visit their son Jared and his wife Tessa in Concordia, Kansas. They have a four year old son named Grayson, Larry and Annette's only grandchild. Tessa is the pastor of the Methodist church there.

The Steinway Concert Grand Piano we have in the sanctuary, which, incidentally, is of the same quality as the one to be found in Carnegie Hall, was found in a music store in Tulsa, OK. The store was going out of business and Larry was able to get that discount and through professional connections, an artist's discount as well, making the purchase less than half of the retail price.

The most fascinating story of all though, regards the purchase of the Pipe Organ. The Music Director



HIGHLIGHT, CONT'D

at the Episcopal Church in Kansas City is a personal friend and Larry told him that if he ever heard of a pipe organ for sale to let him know. In 2007 or 2008 he contacted Larry and said there was a Casavant Pipe Organ in a church in Kansas City Kansas. (Larry was familiar with the Casavant factory as he had taken various classes to tour the factory where the organs were built) Roger Hadlestadt, the church organist, made the trip to Kansas City with Larry to see the organ. An agreement was reached on a price of \$25,000. Larry knew a company, who would refurbish, move and installed it for about \$75,000. He presented the proposal to the church council. The proposal was

accepted and altogether, it cost the church about \$110,000. Amazingly, the money was raised in about six weeks. To buy a new one would have been about a million dollars. Larry commented, "This is a very generous church."



SPRC invites you to join in a
LOVE OFFERING
for your church staff.

You may drop your check in the offering plate, in the church office, or in the basket in the Narthex through Sunday, December 23. Be sure to mark it as "Love Offering."

MUSIC

Wesley Concert Series - Looking Back and Forward

The final recital of 2013 on the series featured Gail Archer, an organist and university professor based in New York City. She played an exciting program featuring music from the 17th to the 21st century, including a work she commissioned from Alla Borzova and premiered last year. The recital was well attended and Dr. Archer was warmly received.

For 2014, we already have two recitals booked and one more in the works.

On February 7th, pianist Cole Burger will be returning for his third appearance at First Methodist. Dr. Burger is a professor at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. He first played at our church when he was 12 years old, and returned two years ago to play another recital.

On May 17th, we will hear the annual concert of the Graduate Fellowship String Quartet from the Conservatory of Music and Dance at the University of Missouri at Kansas City (UMKC).

Still in the works, planned for the late spring, is a recital of English art songs by tenor David White, accompanied by Broc Hite.

Thanks for your support of the Wesley Concert Series.

Advent Music In the Air

The Traditional Choir will participate in a service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 8th, at the 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. traditional services. Each Sunday of Advent, as well as before the Christmas Eve service, there will be an extended organ prelude featuring music of Paul Manz, James Biery, Michael Burkhardt, and Charles Callahan. Please join us as we prepare for Christmas in song.



OUR FAMILY



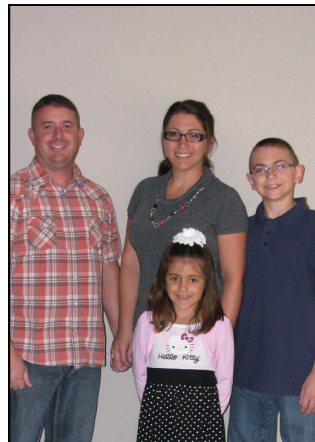
Tim & Jeanette Van Allen joined the church on October 27 at the 9:30am service. They moved here in June of this year and are transferring their membership from the Christ United Methodist Church in Plano, TX. Tim has been in the hotel business for the past 37 years.

Jeanette's primary work was raising her two children, but she was also a CPA for various firms. She recently began employment with Arvest Bank. Tim and Jeanette moved to Bella Vista because Jeanette's two kids are at the U of A, and her parents are long-time Bella Vista residents. Tim enjoys motorcycling, yard work, and just fixing things. Jeanette is a runner and takes time to walk their dogs. They were initially attracted to our church because of the contemporary service, but have really come to appreciate the preaching and the hospitality here. They are members of the 2-Serve Shepherd Group. Welcome, Tim and Jeanette!

Jack & Donna Etheredge became members of FUMC on October 27 at the Contemporary service. Jack is transferring his membership from the Pinson Memorial United Methodist Church in Sylvester, GA. Donna is coming back to the Methodist church, the church of her childhood. They have become members of the One



Shepherd Group. Jack has retired as a software engineer. Donna has retired from a career in Human Resources, the last employer was Wal-Mart. Jack and Donna have a passion for motorcycles, and spend as much of their free time as they can on their bikes. Jack also enjoys water color, wood carving, and travel. Donna enjoys her computer when she is not motorcycling. We hope they will be here enough that we can really get to know them. They have both already jumped in and helped with a couple of our church events. We are so glad they chose this church to unite with. Say hello when you see them.



Bryan & Katie Hickman along with children, Wesley and Keiley, joined our church on October 27 at the 9:30am service, transferring from the Central United Methodist church in Rogers, AR. They are Bro. Jaimie fans. Their First Friends are Ashley and Brian DeGraf. Bryan works at Encore Flooring and Building. He was in the Marines. He has

attended culinary management school. Katie's an at-home mom, raising their two children, Wesley Gernstetter, grade 6 and Keiley Hickman, grade 2. Katie works on video DVD's and does photography. The Hickman's have a new puppy, Sadie, and between the kids and Sadie they all enjoy fishing, reading, and just being together.

Richard (Dick) & Karen Bacon joined our church on November 10 at the 8am service. Their first friends are Carmen and Dorothy Phillips. Dick and Karen had been members previously, but worshiped at another church for a while. We are glad they are back. Dick's education is an MBA, which he used in his professional responsibilities in Human Resources for a manufacturing plant.



OUR FAMILY



Now he's retired. Karen is a nurse, but sold insurance for AFLAC from 1988 till she retired and moved here. Their retirement is what brought them to Bella Vista.

Dick's hobby is woodworking and he also enjoys yard work.

Karen's hobby is quilting, and she is happy to have Dick do the yard work. She likes Bunco. They both like reading and traveling. They like to play Texas Canasta.

They walk almost every morning—3-5 miles, depending on the weather, meetings, etc. Karen has completed 3 1/2 marathons. Most days, Karen tells us, you will find them in their respective "shops" - Karen sewing and Dick making sawdust.

Lonnie and Shalan Ziemianin joined their family with ours on November 24 at the 9:30 am service. Their older sons, Jacob and Tristen are both active in another church at this time. Zachary, grade 9 and Allison, grade K, both joined with mom and dad.



Lonnie works for Knight Transportation. Shalan recently began work in the Accounting/Finance area of Unilever, where she had previously worked as a temp. Shalan is also a Girl Scout leader. Lonnie, Jake and Tristin all enjoy hunting; Zach is into sports; Allison enjoys art and reading. When Shalan finds spare time, she enjoys scrapbooking and reading. Please greet the Ziemianin's when you see them.

DEATHS



Nancy DeVan died November 9, after having been treated for cancer. A memorial service was held at the church on Wednesday, November 13. A reception was hosted by Naomi Circle. The Abram Shepherd Group provided a meal for the family. Please remember John in the weeks and months ahead.

Juanita Reed died on November 15, following a stay at Mercy. Only the day before, she had been moved to Regency at Mercy. Juanita had struggled with her heart for some time. A memorial service was held at the church on November 21 at 2pm. Shepherd Group "8" provided a luncheon prior to the service. Church women hosted a reception following the service.



PRAYER SHAWLS

Prayer Shawls had previously been given to those who suffered illness or tragedy in November. The Prayer Shawls are given in the event of major illness, injury, or death.

Do not hesitate to call the church to ask if someone has or should receive a prayer shawl.

The cost of materials for each prayer shawl is from \$15 to \$20. You can help defray the costs with a donation of any amount. Make checks payable to the church. In the Memo section, write Prayer Shawl Ministry.



OUR FAMILY

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

05	George & Pat Brannon
10	John & Carol Zurn
16	David & Carol Stanley
21	Tim & Jeanette Van Allen
22	Harris & Charlotte Manuel
27	Glen & Martha Hogue
29	Chris & John Rice
31	Vern & Rene Bladon

*"I heard a bird sing in the
dark of December
A magical thing and sweet to remember.
'We are nearer to Spring than we were in
September,' I heard a bird sing in the
dark of December."
- Oliver Herford, I Heard a Bird Sing*

*How did it get so late so soon? Its night
before its afternoon. December is here
before its June. My goodness how the time
has flewn. How did it get so late so soon?"
- Dr. Seuss*

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01	Ed Fischer	
01	Joann Handel	
01	Joe McGee	
02	Damon Christian	11
02	Doug Grant	
03	David Hanson	

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS (CONT'D)

06	Margie Bowen	
06	Isabelle Mendoza	5
06	Marv Mickelson	
08	Allyson Meagher	6
08	Pat Wolter	
09	Madge Garrison	
12	Eleanor Dunsmoor	
13	Marion DeWyze	
14	David Barber	
14	Mason Jones	18
14	Jean Nordmeyer	
16	Melba Brown	
19	Dorene Van Fleet	
21	Wayne Calhoun	97
21	Donna Etheredge	
21	Emma Kell	14
22	Joe Bowen	
22	Blake Roath	18
23	Martha Hogue	
26	Diane Cox	
26	Justin Trombley	
27	Donna Hamilton	
27	Ruth Ireland	
29	Rosemary Dyson	
29	Rose Jones	
29	Marvin Wright	
30	Brynn Hanson	4
30	Sawyer Hanson	4
30	Sara Mayne	12
31	Carly Engle	17
31	John Pope	



OUR FAMILY

Christmas Potluck Needs Host

Are you home for the holidays this Christmas? How about volunteering to host or teaming up with another person or family to host the Christmas Day Potluck.

It is not a hard job. The office will sign up volunteers to help set up and clean up for the event which will take place on Wednesday, December 25, from 11:30am till 1pm. Clean-up should only take about an hour. The office will also handle the sheet for people to sign up that they are coming.

The cost of admission is to bring a dish to share. Those who do not wish to cook or just don't want to, can pay \$8 when they sign up and a dish will be prepared in their name, ready on Christmas Day.

The turkey and gravy, provided by the church, will only need to be warmed in the oven. Disposable dinnerware will be provided to cut down on clean-up afterward.

See Bro. Jaimie or Jan Lowe if you have questions or want to volunteer. We'll need a commitment by December 6, so we can announce it in the Dec 8th church bulletin.

THANK YOU

What a Church! During and after my recent surgery, we have received many cards, food and well wishes from you all. Thank you for showing concern for my health and helping Arlene cope with having to put up with me while I recover. She deserves a medal. A special thanks to Brother Jaimie and Jan Lowe for their hospital visits. We have such great and caring ministers. Thanks to all.

Rod and Arlene Alford

This Church has enfolded us in arms of love from the first realization of Bob's illness, through his memorial service and well beyond. We were so blessed and I still am. Classes that helped me deal with what was happening to us were available and helpful. Friends rallied around, providing support, encouragement and hugs. From Bro. Jamie's help planning the memorial service to Martha circle providing a meal to follow, you all knew just what to do and my family and I are very grateful. I apologize for being so slow to publicly thank you all.

Juanita Dittmer & Family

Thank you for the loving thoughts, prayers, visits, cards and meals during John's illness. Your thoughtfulness nourishes us in many ways. Special thanks to the Metfield Methodist shepherd group, Chet and Cheryl Campbell, Sandy Fitch and the Prayer Shawl Ministry. We are on a long path of recovery. Your thoughtfulness makes the journey easier.

John & Jean Justice



The Church Staff

wishes to express our Thanks to our Church Members!

We all feel very fortunate to serve a Congregation that so graciously gives their time, their talent, and their support to us.

Thank You, and Merry Christmas



MISSIONS

Shoebox Ministry

Deliveries

Shoe boxes, dolls, stuffed animals, hand knit caps and large bottles of shampoo were delivered last month. Shelters served were Souls Harbor, Salvation Army-Rogers, Salvation Army-Bentonville, Northwest Arkansas Children's Center, Hanna House, and Northwest Benton County Women's Shelter. Cooper Elementary School received 60 Sunshine Sacks. Donated items such as sunscreen, chapstick, special unscented dry skin creams were taken to the Weekly Vista office to be sent to the troops.



Volunteers

Thank you to the Evening circle for sorting items for the Sunshine pack during their November meeting. The company was good as well as the snacks that were served.

Wish List

Reader's Digest, women's and men's white cotton socks.

The Shoebox Teams Leaders: Cheryl Campbell, Diane Cox, Karen Roenfeld and Vicki Schroeder would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a very Blessed New Year.

Meals on Wheels

FUMC Meals on Wheels Program is establishing an assistant



coordinator position. Assistant will need to be available to step in when the FUMC Meals on Wheels Coordinator is ill or otherwise unable to perform his/her duties. The Meals on Wheels program requires FUMC to deliver meals only one month per year (in 2014 our month is April). If you are able and interested in assisting, please contact the church office at 855-1158 or Darrell Bottjen at 876-1392.

PAK A SAK

Sunday December 15 Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter will be the recipient of our food collection. This is a temporary home for children from infants thru the teen years. Their lives, through no fault of their own, are in peril for many reasons. The shelter is in need of all types of non-perishable food items including cereal, fruit, milk, juice, soups, and food for infants. THANK YOU for all your donations to the PAK A SAK program that have helped men, women, and children in Benton County during 2013. May all of you have A BLESSED CHRISTMAS SEASON.



Angel Tree

Thank you for your tremendous response to this year's Angel Tree. A total of 45 names have been taken. Please remember to have your gifts returned under the tree no later than December 8.

If you missed your chance to pull a name of a local child for Angel Tree this year, look again! Andrea Myane has added the names of ten orphans at the Ekisa Orphanage in Uganda. Your donation will help pay for a year of physical therapy for these angels. You can make donations to 99 balloons via their web page listed on the angel. If you have questions, please call or email Andrea Myane at 531-0103 or myanefamily@gmail.com





MISSIONS



MISSION OF THE MONTH METHODIST FAMILY HEALTH

Methodist Family Health is a nonprofit organization that provides comprehensive psychiatric and behavioral healthcare to children and families in Arkansas through a network of programs and services.

Today Methodist Family Health provides the only comprehensive behavioral healthcare system to children and families of Arkansas. Through its Continuum of Care and range of services and venues, Methodist Family Health helps rebuild the lives of children and families.

The Mission of Methodist Family Health is to give the best possible care to those who may need our help and to treat the whole person: behaviorally, emotionally, and spiritually.

Methodist Family Health's emotional and behavioral healthcare services are designed to help children, adolescents and their families. We offer inpatient psychiatric hospitalization for children ages 3 to 17; outpatient counseling clinics; grief counseling services; psychiatric residential treatment centers; therapeutic group homes and foster care; school-based counseling services; therapeutic day treatment programs, K-12; youth emergency shelter; and treatment for mothers with addictions and their families. MFH

offers 24-hour, confidential, no-charge assessments for children and adolescents in crisis.



NOTHING



IN



RETURN

Nothing in Return is a ministry that serves foster and adoptive families in Northwest Arkansas. They provide support through food, clothing, cleaning and hygiene supplies, and other items that may be needed by these loving families. The Missions Team traveled to this pantry in Springdale on November 14 to help in anyway we could. We organized the food pantry, sorted clothes, helped move food boxes and cleaned up. We also took items to add to their closet – stuffed animals, knitted hats and blankets, diapers and other items.

Nothing in Return serves a need in our area and is always thankful for volunteers. If you or your group would like to spend a few hours helping out, contact Sandy Fitch for more information.



THE GOAT BANK
WILL BE BACK
IN MID-DECEMBER.
LET'S PURCHASE A
SHEEP!



BOOK NOOK



BOOKS IN SERIES:

HOME TO HICKORY HOLLOW

by Beverly Lewis

Book 4: THE SECRET KEEPER

LARGE-PRINT FICTION:

SWEET SALT AIR by Barbara Delinsky

Barbara Delinsky spins spell-binding tales and this book is no exception.

ROSEMARY COTTAGE by Colleen Coble

Can two grieving people with secrets find healing on Hope Island?

ONCE UPON A TIME by Debbie Macomber

This book shares Debbie's love of story and helps showcase the big picture of the story God is writing through us.

NON-FICTION:

THE DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY by Erik Larson

Murder, magic and madness at the Fair that changed America.

FICTION:

CHRISTMAS IN MITFORD GIFT SET by Jan Karon

The 2 books in this set are The Mitford Snowman and Esther's Gift.

A PLAIN & SIMPLE CHRISTMAS by Amy Clipston

An inspiring Amish tale of Faith, Family, Forgiveness and the Miracle of Christmas.

NAOMI'S GIFT by Amy Clipston

An Amish Christmas story.

LYDIA'S CHARM by Wanda Brunstetter

An Amish widow starts over in Charm, Ohio.

UNSPOKEN by Dee Henderson

Charlotte Graham is at the center of the most famous kidnapping in Chicago history.

SAN MIGUEL by T.C. Boyle

The extraordinary stories of two families. One in the 1880's and one in the 1930's.

LIZZIE SEARCHES FOR LOVE by Linda Byler

Three best selling novels in one book.

BOOK REVIEWS FROM ONE

OF OUR READERS: Maryann

Johnson

All the books I've read by Karen Kingsbury are excellent! I am going to tell you about one of her books "Gideon's Gift". The size of the book is small but the message of hope and love is huge indeed! A small, ill girl teaches a disillusioned, sad man a lesson of love with a small gift. He then is able to create a miracle. This heartwarming story is the first in a series so start with number one and read all four. You will be glad you did!

"The Noticer" by Andy Andrews is part of the United Methodist Women's reading program. The story takes place in a small town in Alabama. The people there have problems like people everywhere, but when things look the darkest, a mysterious man named Jones has an amazing way of showing up. "Sometimes all a person needs is a little perspective."

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that our church library has several full classes from Great Courses? Topics covered include the Old and New Testament, various religions and other areas of interest. These courses are on DVD and are presented by some of the most respected scholars in their field of study. If you were to purchase these classes from Great Courses, the cost would exceed \$100 for each one - and they have been donated to our library for you to check out for free!





FELLOWSHIP

FAITH 5 SHEPHERD GROUP
 POT LUCK—FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13
 12:00—2:00 P.M. IN THE CHAPEL
 Contact Nona Storck 855-1423
 for more information

The Metfield Methodists and Sunrise Shepherd Groups will meet on Thursday, December 12, at 5:30 p.m. for a soup supper and potluck in the Chapel. Chili and Potato Soup will be furnished. Members are asked to bring a side. They are also asked to bring a favorite angel and an item for Oasis of Northwest Arkansas.



Place your
 Poinsettia
 order today!

Poinsettias will be available for decorating the church this Christmas season for you to order in honor of or in memory of a loved one.

The cost is \$10. You can stop by the church office to place your order.

Please fill out a separate order form so that we make sure we have the correct information. We will be printing a special recognition insert for the Christmas bulletin Sunday, December 22 with the information you give us. After Christmas, you may take your Poinsettia home.

METFIELD METHODIST SHEPHERD GROUP gathered for our annual Game Night on November 5. We had two tables playing Farkle. Each table had a Farkle King and Queen.



At table one, Queen Mary Ann Zotti had high score and King Ralph Johnson had the most Farkles.



At table two, King Chet Campbell had the high score and Queen Suzanne Shoemaker had the most Farkles.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl knitters will work from home from now until January. Please watch the bulletin for their next meeting time.

Julie Fischer



FINANCE

“Transformed Living” Stewardship Update, by Bro. Jaimie Alexander

As of Sunday, November 24, 216 pledges have been received totaling \$473,800.00 towards the 2014 budget. That represents 24 more commitments and \$53,204.00 more than was pledged this year. Thank you for your faithfulness in giving to underwrite the 2014 budget.

Our Finance Chairperson, Ewart Scarff, has addressed here a service we will begin providing at the end of November.

Accepting Debit and Credit Card Donations

Our society is more mobile and sophisticated than ever before.

Many members are accustomed to making purchases or payments by using Debit and Credit Cards. More and more people are likely to carry debit or credit cards than a check book or large amounts of cash.

To accommodate this changing trend the Finance Committee at it's meeting 11/11/2013, adopted the following plan:



1. Establish a debit/credit card program at our church to accommodate this society change.
2. Prefer and encourage debit cards but would accept credit card giving.
3. Our church processing bank is helping us set up this program.
4. A small portable processing machine to manage this type of giving will be available and operated by a Finance representative following each church service.
 - a. 1st service (8am) and 3rd service (10:45am) will be available in the Narthex.
 - b. The Well (9:30am contemporary) service will be available in Becker Hall.

Tim Harris and **Maryann Johnson** want to give you a BIG, Heartfelt Thank You for your active participation in the Transforming Lives, Stewardship Campaign! So many of you were praying regularly which is certainly the foundation for the success of any endeavor. You were also regularly present in the services which were so supportive of the efforts to raise the pledges needed for the success of our church programs. The results of Every Member in Ministry will determine the service opportunities we have all volunteered to participate in during the next year. Thank you for the level of giving you have determined is appropriate for you and your family. May we each be able to make disciples for Christ to further the Kingdom of God.

OCTOBER 2013 FINANCIAL DATA					Compare
		*			2012
		=	- Endowment		
Month to date (as of 10/31/13)	Actual Receipts	*	\$40,460		*\$46,846
Month to date (as of 10/31/13)	Actual Expenses		\$51,007		\$54,813
			-\$10,547		-\$7,967
Year to date	Actual Receipts	*	\$462,387		*\$479,783
Year to date	Actual Expenses		\$493,405		\$494,209
			-\$31,017		-\$14,426

December 2013



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 BP~ between services 7:30 Praise Tm rehrls 8:00 Traditional Srvice 9:30 "The Well" Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Play Practice 10:45 Traditional Srvice	2 Decorate Church 9:00 Staff Meeting 11:30 CD-PEO 12:45 Women's Chorus 1:00 Disciple I	3 9:00 SS/SALT Bible Stdy	4 7:30-Men's Emmaus 8:30-Bible Study 8:30 Disciple II 9:00 Quilters 11:00 Quilters Pot Luck 11:45 UMW Luncheon 3:40 Chancel Bells 6:00 Prayer Service 6:30 Choir Practice 7:00 Youth Life 7:00 Wesleyan Way	5 8:00 Men's Chorus 10:30 Concordia Bible 11:00 Golf-Kingswood	6 9:00 Disciple IV	7 8:30 Old Faithful SG
8 7:30 Praise Tm rehrls 8:00 Traditional Srvice 9:30 "The Well" Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Srvice 10:45 Play Practice 3:00 BV Men's Concert	9 9:00 Caregiver Support 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Calico Cut-ups Brd 12:45 Women's Chorus 1:00 Disciple I 5:30 Abram SG	10 8:30 PEO 9:00 SS/SALT Bible Stdy 10:00 Handbell Trio 11:30 Naomi Circle 1:00 Sarah Circle 1:30 Member Meeting 5:30 Agape SG	11 7:30-Men's Emmaus 8:30-Bible Study 8:30 Disciple II 9:00 Quilters 9:30 Missions Meeting 1:00 Guest Followup 3:40 Chancel Bells 6:00 Prayer Service 6:30 UMM Dinner 6:30 Evening Circle 6:30 Choir Practice 7:00 Youth Life 7:00 Wesleyan Way	12 8:00 Men's Chorus 10:30 Concordia Bible 11:00 Golf-Highlands 12:00 HOPE Circle 5:30 MM/Sunrise SG	13 9:00 Disciple IV 11:00 Faith 5 11:30 Pre-school Brd Mtg 6:00 Special Needs "rEcess"	14
15 PAK A SAK 7:05 Handbl Prats 7:30 Praise Tm rehrls 8:00 Traditional Srvice 9:30 "The Well" Srvice 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Srvice 10:45 Play Practice 3:00 Calhoun Recitals	16 9:00 Martha Circle 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:45 Women's Chorus 1:00 Disciple I	17 9:00 SS/SALT Bible Stdy 10:00 Handbell Trio 1:00 BV Book Club 6:00 Staff Party 6:30 Wesley SG	18 7:30-Men's Emmaus 8:30-Bible Study 8:30 Disciple II 9:00 Quilters 3:40 Chancel Bells 6:00 Prayer Service 6:30 Christmas Play 6:30 Choir Practice 7:00 Youth Life 7:00 Wesleyan Way	19 8:00 Men's Chorus 10:30 Concordia Bible 11:00 Golf-Country Club	20 9:00 Disciple IV	21 7:00 All-Church Caroling
22 7:30 Praise Tm rehrls 8:00 Traditional Srvice 9:30 "The Well" Srvice 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Srvice	23 9:00 Caregiver Support 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Calico Cut-ups 12:45 Women's Chorus 1:00 Disciple I	24 12:00 Middy at Manger 5:00 Contemporary Eve 7:00 Traditional Candlelight Service		26	27 9:00 Disciple IV	28
29 7:30 Praise Tm rehrls 8:00 Traditional Srvice 9:30 "The Well" Srvice 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Srvice	30 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:45 Women's Chorus 1:00 Disciple I	31	 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>A Blessed New Year to You & Yours!</i></p>			



First United Methodist Church Of Bella Vista
20 Boyce Drive, Bella Vista, AR 72715

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 176
BENTONVILLE, AR 72712

We're Here to Serve You

Senior Pastor - Brother Jaimie Alexander
 Associate Pastor - Rev. Lee Myane
 Minister of Congregational Care - Jan Lowe
 Director of Children's Ministry - Kristin Crider
 Director of Youth Ministry - David Hanson
 Dir. of Music Ministries - Dr. Lawrence Zehring
 Director of Media Ministries - Troy Jorgensen
 Handbell Director - Dawn Thompson
 Organist/Pianist - Broc Hite
 Praise Team Leader - Shannon Wicker
 Worship Leader - Garrett Greer
 Financial Secretary - Marge Smith
 Treasurer - Patsy Attaway
 Secretary - Janet Walton

Phone: (479) 855-1158

Fax: (479) 855-0850

www.LoveLearnLead.com

To the Home of ...

Keep Christ in Your Christmas...Gather with friends and family

- Dec 1 Advent begins*
- Dec 2, 9:00am All-Church Decorating Day*
- Dec 4, 11:30am UMW Luncheon, Becker Hall*
- Dec 8, 8:00am and 10:45am A Service of Candles and Carols*
- Dec 10, 6:30pm A Service of Healing*
- Dec 11, 6:30pm UMM Ladies Appreciation Dinner*
- Dec 18, 6:30pm Children's Christmas Play*
- Dec 21, 7:00pm All-Church Caroling*
- Dec 24, Christmas Eve Three services— Candles and Communion*
- Dec 24, Noon Midday at the Manger*
- Dec 24, 5pm Blend—Family and Traditional, and Children's Message.*
- Dec 24, 7pm Traditional, and Children's message*

