



# The Good News

December, 2014



## Your Church Staff. . .

. . .wishes to express our Thanks to our Church Family!  
 We all feel very fortunate to serve a Congregation that so graciously gives of their time, their talent, and their support to us.  
 Thank You, and have a blessed holiday!

### ***EVERYONE IS INVITED!!***

The UMW Christmas Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 3rd at 11:45 a.m. in Becker Hall, beginning with quiet time. **Brother Jaimie will be sharing pictures, slides, and telling of his mission trip to Uganda.** Cost for lunch is \$7.00, and the deadline for making reservations is Sunday, November 30 (through your Circle or the church office) **Everyone** in our church & **guests** are welcome. Yes, men, this means you, too! What a great way to begin our Christmas Season at Church!

### *You're Invited!*



## *Christmas From A-Z*

Exploring the Alphabet of Christmas!

**December 14th, 12:00 PM in Becker Hall  
 Potluck & Christmas Cheer!**

Presented by FUMC Vista Kids & Youth Life

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



- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Nov 30                   | Advent Begins   |
| Dec 1, 9:00am            | All-Church "Deck the Halls"                                       |
| Dec 3, 11:45am           | UMW Luncheon, Becker Hall   |
| Dec 10, 6:30pm           | UMM Dinner  |
| Dec 14, 8:00am & 10:45am | Christmas Cantata   |
| Dec 14, 12:00~noon       | Children & Youth Christmas Play & All-Church Potluck, Becker Hall |
| Dec 24, Christmas Eve    |   |
| Dec 24, Noon             | Midday at the Manger  |
| Dec 24, 5pm              | Contemporary Blend—Family and Traditional, and Children's Message |
| Dec 24, 7:30pm           | Carols, Candlelight, Communion                                    |
| Dec 25, 11:30am          | Christmas Pot-Luck  |



## FAITH WALK

with Brother Jaimie Alexander

“Merry Christmas”, “Jesus is the Reason for the Season”, “Happy Holidays”, “Ho! Ho! Ho!”, “I’m dreaming of a White Christmas”, “Let’s go see the Christmas Lights”, “I have got to mail my Christmas Cards”, “The tree is beautiful”, and so many other statements combine to make the sounds we hear during the Advent and Christmas Season. There is another familiar sound you hear often. “What do you want for Christmas?”. People

ask us this question, we also ask ourselves this question, but have you stopped to hear God ask this question through the murmurs of His Holy Spirit speaking to your heart? When we silence the outside sounds of the secular Christmas culture and listen intently to God speaking to us, then we can hear this question personally directed to each of us. The sounds of Christmas combine to make the Advent season a joyous time, but those are not truly the sounds that matter. The sound of Christmas that truly matters is the sound of God shouting boldly and loudly to His children, “I love you so much I am sending my Son into the world!” During this Advent season we will be exploring the question, “What do you want for Christmas?” in worship. It is my prayer that your answers will not be a list of things to purchase online or from a store, but rather the presents of Faithfulness, Hope, Joy, Love, but most of all Jesus!

To help you to answer this question there will be many special offerings during the Advent season that I hope you will attend and share in with the church family. You can read about many of these offerings in the newsletter. I especially hope you will attend one of the 3 different Christmas Eve Services at noon, 5:00pm, and 7:30pm on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>. Sunday morning, December 14, I hope you will hear the Chancel Choir performing the Christmas Cantata “We Have Seen Him” with the composer, Dan Knight and his band *The Usual Suspects* during the two traditional services, or experience the Praise Team leading us in celebration of Christ’s coming in *The Well Service*, and attend the Vista Kids and Youth Life performance of the Christmas play “Christmas from A to Z”, combined with a church-wide noon potluck following all the worship services.

I pray you have a very blessed Advent and Christmas!

God is Faithful!

**Bro. Jaimie**

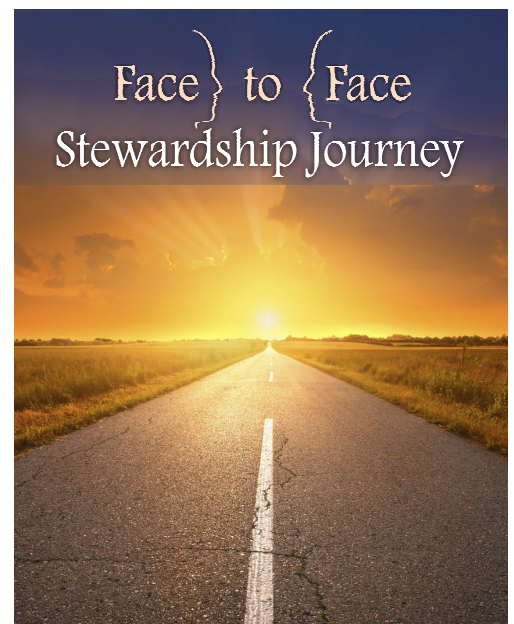
Don’t just come to church; Be the Church!

### “Face to Face” ~ A Stewardship Journey Update

As of November 24<sup>th</sup>, 200 pledges have been received, totaling \$489,030.80 toward the 2015 Budget. This represents \$15,230.00 more pledged over last year at this same time. There are still pledges that we expect to receive that will help support the 2015 Budget. I encourage you to turn in your pledge card if you have not yet done so.

Thank you for your faithfulness in tithing and giving to underwrite the 2015 Stewardship Journey of FUMCBV.

*Bro. Jaimie*





## EPISTILES

### WITH PASTOR ZACH



I was given a book (although since the move, I can't seem to find it) entitled "Stories Behind the Great Traditions of Christmas" It is an extremely interesting book and I would like to share with you one of the stories on why we celebrate advent. In case you didn't know or had forgotten.

Advent is a word often heard during the weeks leading up to the Christmas season. To millions, Advent is about wreaths, candles, and calendars. While these three elements are a way to mark the Advent season and have become an essential part of the celebration of this tradition, maybe even overshadowing the four weeks of Advent itself, there is a great deal more to Advent than this.

Advent is a Latin word meaning "the coming." Officially established by church leaders in the sixth century, Advent was originally meant to be a time when Christians reflected on the meaning of Christmas. Beginning on the Sunday nearest Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> and running until Christmas Eve, Advent was essentially four weeks set aside to contemplate what the coming of Jesus meant not only to the world but to every individual's soul. Hence, while recognized and organized by the church, Advent was also supposed to be a time for personal retrospection and growth. Today, fourteen hundred years after the first Advent season, many families use the symbols of Advent—wreaths, candles, and calendars—to bring the spiritual meaning of Christmas alive in a way that teaches minds, touches hearts and reflects the original purpose of the tradition.

To the early Christians, three different meanings were to be found in the days of Advent, or the days of the coming. The first was the coming of the Son of God to earth in human form as the babe in the manger. The second was the coming of Jesus into our lives, hearts, and actions of those who accepted him as their Savior. The third was the future coming when Jesus will return to the earth as a King. As times changed and the world came to view Christmas in terms of the baby Jesus and not the role he played on earth and the role he will play in his future kingdom, the meaning of Advent changed as well.

Until WWII, most of the people who celebrated Advent dwelled more on the final coming, the time when Jesus would return, than on the first coming, the birth of the child. But as Christmas evolved into a holiday for children, Advent also evolved into a time to remember the child in a manger. A part of the missionary zeal of the holiday may have been lost, but for most people who celebrate Advent, the tenderness and love that was presented in the story of the first Christmas has come to mean even more during the season of Advent.



In worship services, wreaths, candles, or calendars, Advent is much like a movie preview. Each of its forms and symbols marks the time leading to the special event that is about to take place. Advent heightens the senses and emotions and sets the stage for the wonder of Christmas. When presented in the proper way, the way in which the early church intended, Advent also plants the spiritual seeds that grow into an understanding of the reason for this special season. Christmas is still Christmas without Advent, but the festive four-week countdown puts the holiday into the proper perspective.

*Pastor Zach*



## JOINING in the JOURNEY TOGETHER

with Ministerial Intern, Brenda Wideman

### “And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light”.

(Genesis 1:3)

I have always loved the lights of Christmas. As a child, my family spent Thanksgiving and Christmas meals together with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. There was a farm on the way to my grandparents that always put a star on top of their barn at Christmas, just a single blue star, shining brightly way up high. I remember peering anxiously out the car window for that star to appear. I wondered if the star that guided the wise men looked anything like that. The country road that went to my grandparent’s home was dark with lots of twists and turns that were hard to see. The star shining in the night was like a guiding light as we drove through the darkness.

Since my husband and I moved with our three children to Fayetteville, we have had a tradition to take a drive one night in search of the “best” Christmas lights. Fayetteville started their “Lights of the Ozarks” celebration just about the time we moved to northwest Arkansas. The town square looks like a new galaxy of stars as everything appears to be twinkling. You can hear the “oohs” and the “aahs” as people shiver while gripping their hot chocolate as they walk from one side of the square to the other. Lots of neighborhoods take up the challenge as residents try to outdo their friends and have the “best” lights. Blowup Santas, reindeer, movement and music are all added. Prizes are awarded; and some of those voted best are featured on the evening news. Lights are a lot more lavish these days than that single blue star of my childhood.

And yet, for all the grand displays of today, that one simple star from long ago shines brightly in my memory. It just stood out above the rest with its purity and the way it broke through the darkness guiding my family as we struggled on the long ride home. Jesus is like that. He did not come in an elaborate display of grandeur, with technology controlling the swaying and blinking in perfect rhythm to the music. Instead he came in a simple manger, under the light of a single guiding star. His light stood out above the rest; it broke through the darkness of life with a purity that guides us like no other light ever will. “Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’” (John 8:12) My prayer for you this Christmas is that you find this light, this guiding light of Jesus, a light that shines like no other, a light that continues to break through our struggles and our darkness and gives us life.

Blessings to you and yours this Christmas, *Brenda*

| OCTOBER 2014 FINANCIAL DATA    |                 |               |                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
|                                |                 | *= -Endowment | 2014<br>Budget | Compare<br>2013 |
| Month to date (as of 10/31/14) | Actual Receipts | *\$53,431     | *\$52,924      | *\$41,072       |
| Month to date (as of 10/30/14) | Actual Expenses | \$53,890      | \$52,924       | \$51,007        |
|                                | Month of OCT    | (\$459)       |                | (\$9,935)       |
| <b>Year to date</b>            | Actual Receipts | *\$538,341    | *\$529,240     | *\$471,842      |
| <b>Year to date</b>            | Actual Expenses | \$536,501     | \$529,240      | \$493,405       |
|                                | YTD             | (\$1,840)     |                | (\$21,563)      |

Operating Account Balance 10/31/14 **(\$44,384)**



## YOUTH LIFE

with David Hanson, *Director of Youth Ministries*



Robert Frost has a great poem that we all know called the "The Road Not Taken." So many of our youth are coming to those crossroads in life and having to make that decision of which direction to go. We've been talking about letting God lead them in the directions he wants us to go by listening and praying.

The youth have been doing really good lately as the fall sports come to a conclusion. Some of the youth are starting to find more time to meet and have fellowship time with the rest of the youth. Please keep all the youth in your prayers as they come upon semester finals in December. As the weather gets cold and roads get bad please pray for the youth to drive safe to other destinations especially to Wednesday nights.

Please see the sign up link for Wednesday night youth dinners if you'd like to cook or supply some edible items for Wednesday nights. If you can't sign up please contact me. The youth are doing a book study on the birth of Jesus from Mary's perspective. Sandy and Amy O. are leading this group and some great questions arising from doing this. Some big decisions are being made on what the youth will be doing for mission trips this summer. Please feel free to contact David if you have any suggestions or want to donate to the youth mission trip. As always I want to send out a very special thank you from the youth and me for all those that have supported the youth this past year whether it's meals, money or gift. Every little bit has made this youth program become stronger and has allowed the youth to build a stronger faith in God. Thank you everyone.

**Needs:** Drinks and snacks for youth room; Youth Wednesday night meals ~ sign up link is [www.meals.com](http://www.meals.com). First name FUMCBV last name Bella Vista. Password Love\_Youth You will see how to sign up from there.

*David* 479-601-1028 [dwhanso@gmail.com](mailto:dwhanso@gmail.com)



## Vista Kids

with Kristin Crider, *Director of Children's Ministries*

**Matthew 2:10** *When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.*



What a sight, that must have been! Even an ordinary sky of stars brings wonder to eyes of all ages...but that star, the one that shone so brightly as a beacon to hope and new life, must have inspired awe to each beholder.

As Advent begins this year, we are each tasked with finding the joy of this season in the star that illuminates the birth of Jesus. How does your star shine with joy? Whether your joy lies in a bustling kitchen of family, a sparkling tree or a quiet church pew the JOY of Christmas is a gift for each of us to unwrap and enjoy!

The Children and Youth of FUMC would like to invite each of you to an all-church potluck on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm. The children will present Christmas from A-Z to all who attend! The children will be practicing and creating our letters during Sunday --- school. There will be practice after Sunday school on November 30 and December 14<sup>th</sup>.

The children will be lighting Advent candles and talking about Advent during our large group time before Sunday school each Sunday of Advent. All are welcome to participate with us!

Thank you to all who attended and helped with our Faith and Family Night in November. We were truly blessed to hear the testimony of Michael Bolin and enjoy the fellowship of many! Our Special Needs Ministry team is looking for a few more board members to continue to offer these type of events to the community. Please consider joining the team!!

Merry Christmas to all!

*Kristin*





## OUR FAMILY



Each month this space is used to tell about the people who are part of our church family. If you know of a birthday, anniversary, graduation, hole in one, community recognition, someone moving away or moving in, whatever the rest of the church might like to know to keep up with folks, let me know so I can include the information in these pages. Send

your information to Jan Lowe, Congregational Care Minister at [jan@lovelearnlead.com](mailto:jan@lovelearnlead.com), or 531-0381 or at the church, 855-1158.

### Dr Stephen and Paula Carter

joined the church at the 8am service on November 16. Stephen has practiced as a family medicine physician in Morrilton, AR for the past 26 years. He recently accepted the position as Hospice physician at Legacy Village, Circle of Life, in Bentonville.



Paula is a retired dental hygienist; she also retired in 2010 from 18 yrs of teaching high school English at Morrilton High School.

You can try to keep up with Stephen, who runs, bikes, and swims in his spare time. And to slow himself down, he reads, and works crossword puzzles. Paula enjoys needlework, sewing, and reading. Together, they watch old movies, walk the dog, and prepare meals together.

When they visited here they were impressed with the friendliness of the people, the structure and pace of the traditional service, and decided to call FUMCBV, home. Please make them feel welcome when you see them.

**Rick and Rose Taylor** became members of our church on October 26 at *The Well* service. They moved here 3 years ago from the South Chicago suburbs to be closer to Rick's parents, who had moved here 25 years ago.



Rick and Rose have worked in special education their entire adult lives. They both are currently employed through the Rogers Public School District.

One of their hobbies is reading ~ Rick likes science and science fiction and Rose leans more toward mysteries and horror stories. They also walk a lot and enjoy trips to visit their children in Wisconsin and Texas. Please welcome the Taylors when you cross their path.

### Jennifer Stucker and daughter, Zoe Owens

became members of our church on November 16th at *The Well* worship service. Jennifer, originally from the Arizona/California border, has lived with daughter Zoe in Bella Vista for just four months. Jennifer has had numerous jobs in her background, mostly cashiering, and waitressing. She will soon be taking course work in Child Development so that she can focus on her passion which is caring for children who have suffered child abuse. Jennifer's love for her own daughter runs deep; she described Zoe as being a smart independent 9-year old, in the 3rd





## OUR FAMILY

grade at Thomas Jefferson elementary school. Zoe is especially gifted in Math. She is also loves running. and mom would love for someone to give her a little guidance to keep her interest.

As for Jennifer, she is looking for a new beginning in Bella Vista, and in FUMC. She enjoys reading, arts and crafts, spending time outdoors with Zoe, biking, swimming, camping, reading and watching movies. Please welcome Jennifer and Zoe when you see them.

### DEATHS



**Shirley Haufe** passed away on Oct 31, after a short illness and a brief stay at Legacy Village, Circle of Life in Bentonville. Shirley had suffered some heart problems and a broken hip in the past couple years of her life, but had seemed to be doing much better.

A funeral service for Shirley was held at the church on Nov 5 at 2pm. A visitation time was held from 1pm till 2pm. Bro. Jaimie Alexander officiated. Please pray for comfort and healing for her children, Betsy and Jim.

**Donna Hamilton** passed away unexpectedly, early Sunday morning, Nov 9. She had been at Highlands Health Care for rehab on her leg, but was rushed to the hospital for her heart. A memorial service was held on November 13 at 2:00pm in our sanctuary. Please be in prayer for her children and other family and friends as they mourn her loss.



**Vernon Walker** passed away Wednesday, Nov 19, at home under Hospice Care. He had numerous set-backs in the time following the amputation of both legs more than a year ago. He accepted his fate in good spirits, and often used humor to take the focus off of himself. In the past months, he said "I'm ready for God when He's ready for me." We will miss him. A memorial service was held for Vernon on Saturday, November 22nd at FUMCBV. Please be in prayer for his wife, Paula and their children as they mourn his loss.



You are invited for  
"Lunch with  
The Pastor"

An informal gathering to celebrate  
New Members and Persons who are  
interested in Membership at  
First United Methodist Church  
of Bella Vista

December 7th  
12:15pm  
In our Chapel

For more information or to let us know you will  
be attending, please contact the Church office.

Childcare Available  
by arrangement

RSVP 855-1158



## OUR FAMILY

### EVERY MEMBER IN MINISTRY EMIM

We are preparing the schedule for all of those who signed up for Sunday ministries in 2015. Our goal is to have the Sunday schedules to participants by the first week in December.

For questions or concerns, please contact Jan Lowe at 531-0381 or at the church 855-1158.

### SOARING SOLOS

**November**— about 16 Solos met at Papa Mike's on Saturday, Nov. 8 for breakfast. Lots of lively talk passed between two large tables—and all are looking forward to the next time we meet.

The Solos also met on Friday, Nov 21 at 5:30pm for a no-meat potluck in the Chapel.

Now that it is getting dark earlier, don't choose not to come to an evening event—just call one of the Solo's for a ride, or ask Jan Lowe to arrange a ride for you.

**December** - Dec 6, Papa Mike's for breakfast at 9am.

Dec. 21, Lupper (Lunch and Supper) at Corino's at 3:30pm. Because of the Christmas Season, I'll need to make reservations by Dec. 8th. Please e-mail or call me with your reservation. We'll carpool from the church or take the bus if enough sign up.

**To sign up for any of the above activities or to be added to the e-mail list for notification of upcoming activities and events**, contact Jan at [jan@lovelearnlead.com](mailto:jan@lovelearnlead.com), or call Jan at 531-0381. Church members are encouraged to invite others to join in our activities. You don't have to be a member of our church to participate in outings, just single.

### SANCTIFIED CLASSIFIEDS

**Sunday Office Angel** If you are willing to volunteer any time between 7:30am and noon on Sunday mornings to work in the office addressing the needs of members and guests, we will work with you based on your availability. Greet those who come in with a warm smile and a willing attitude; answer questions or find out and get back to them; sign people up for various happenings at the church.

**Sunday Bus Drivers**—to cover for regular drivers during vacations, and as needed. Please see Bob Kennedy for more information.

**Indoor Plant Waterer**—take over established route. Choose Tues and/or Friday to go through the building watering the plants. It will take about fifteen minutes from start to finish. Contact Janet Walton.

**Maintain the Marquee**—at the bottom of the hill near Lancashire. Rotate every other week with another person to update Service information for the upcoming Sunday—usually on Tuesday's. Less than an hour's work, every other week. This is an outdoor activity. Bundle up in this cold weather.

### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Prayer Shawls have 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. The labor to make the shawls is given with love! 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".

The Prayer Shawl group meets every Tuesday morning at 10:00am in Room 6. Come join the fun!





## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



- 5 George & Pat Brannon (69)
- 10 John & Carol Zurn
- 11 Rev. Zach & Kerry Underwood
- 16 David & Carol Stanley
- 19 Ted & Linda Ivy
- 21 Tim & Jeanette Van Allen
- 22 Harris & Charlotte Manuel
- 24 Bob & Betty Reynolds (60)
- 27 Glen & Martha Hogue (64)
- 29 Chris & John Rice

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS (CONT'D)

- 12 Eleanor Dunsmoor
- 13 Marion DeWyze
- 13 Tristen Knannichfeld
- 14 Jean Nordmeyer
- 17 Marilyn Pommerenke
- 19 Dorene Van Fleet
- 21 Wayne Calhoun (98)
- 21 Donna Etheredge
- 21 Emma Kell
- 22 Joe Bowen
- 22 Blake Roath
- 22 Roy Tunnell
- 23 Martha Hogue
- 24 Zachary Knannichfeld
- 26 Diane Cox
- 27 Ruth Ireland
- 29 Rosemary Dyson
- 29 Rose Jones
- 29 Marvin Wright
- 29 Brynn Hanson
- 29 Sawyer Hanson
- 31 Carly Engle

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- 1 Jo Ann Handel
- 1 Joe McGee
- 2 Doug Grant
- 2 Kathy Jones
- 3 David Hanson
- 6 Margie Bowen
- 6 Sarah Lucht
- 6 Isabelle Mendoza
- 8 Kelly Parham
- 8 Pat Wolter
- 9 Madge Garrison
- 9 Heath Lehmann





### PAT PERSHING'S SANTAS

Take a journey to the Bella Vista Historical Museum to view the amazing display of over 300 Santa Clauses shown by our own Pat Pershing. Pat has been collecting Santas "forever" and this display is a small portion of what she owns.

The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from 12:00 to 4:00. Admission is free.



It's that time of year again. We have the opportunity to show our staff how much we appreciate their hard work and dedication. The SPR committee invites you to contribute to the holiday love offering for our staff members. The love offering will be collected through the last Sunday of the year.

Simply mark your offering envelope or check "STAFF LOVE OFFERING" to make sure it is set aside for that purpose. SPRC would also like to remind you that, if necessary for budgeting reasons, you can contribute to the holiday love offering throughout the year. These funds will be accumulated until the end of the year. Of course, donations given during the year will also need to be marked "STAFF LOVE OFFERING".

Thank you in advance for your generosity. We have a wonderful staff here at FUMC Bella Vista and this is one way we can show them how much they are appreciated.

*SPR Committee members*

## UMM

At our Annual Business meeting in November, we discussed the future of our Pancake Days and held election of officers for 2015. Both of these items will be finalized at our December meeting, with the Installation of Officers and a possible members vote on Pancake Days.

In general, the discussion of Pancake Days focused on the problems of Clean-Up after the event. This has been a problem for several years and there needs to be a solution if we are to continue these primary money makers of our organization. Several suggestions were made and discussed, but no final decision was made and the possible vote was tabled until December.

The slate of officers presented by the Board was approved by voice vote and will take office in January. They are as follows:

President - Jim Belcoff

Vice President - John Justice (Interim)

Secretary - Don Jones

Treasurer - Darrell Bottjen

Past President - Alan Packard

Member at Large - Lou Kauffmann

Member at Large - open

The Board also added a list of activity chairmen with the Ballot, including:

Pancake Day - General Chairman - open

Parking - Wayne Horner

Ladies Night Out - open

Room Set up/Take down - Chet Campbell and Darrell Bottjen

Golf Groups

Monday - Chet Campbell

Tuesday - Alan Packard

Thursday - Darrell Bottjen/James Forrest

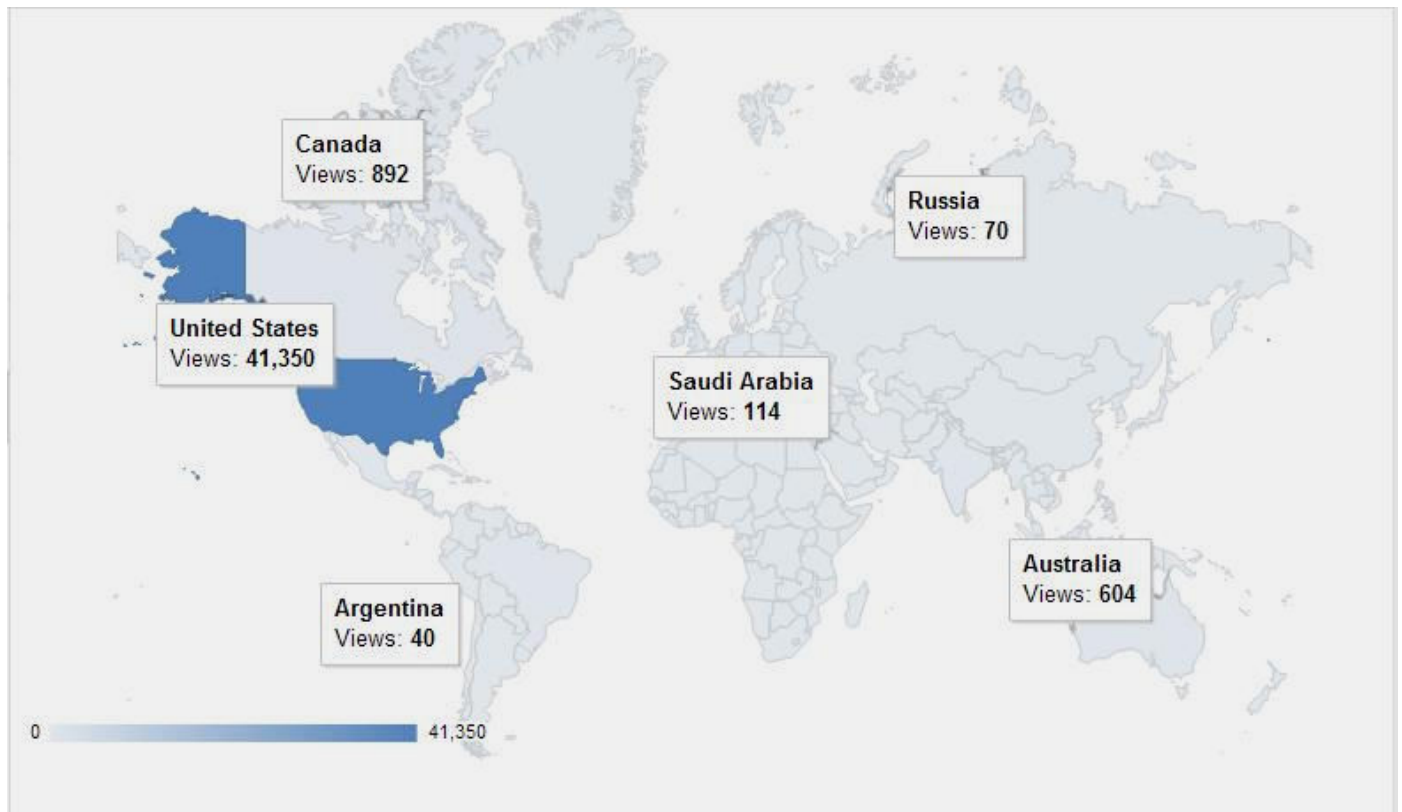
These positions are not part of the election, but are included for the information of the membership. There are positions open and it would be appropriate if the members of the United Methodist Men would consider stepping up and accepting responsibility for one of these activities, if they want them to continue.

Our next meeting will be December 10th - see ya there.



## MEDIA MINISTRY

The members of the Media Ministry Team's continued help is appreciated immensely. It's more than pointing a camera or adjusting sound levels. As a team, there is much more going on than what we physically see on Sundays. Since we began posting videos on YouTube on Dec 20, 2010, there have been **50,998** views. This year alone, there have been **10,957** views. In terms of YouTube views, those numbers don't necessarily mean we've gone "viral" but those numbers are still HUGE. Below is a graphic with a few highlighted areas. Note that each geographical area on this map, even the ones not showing a number, do have a number. I've only highlighted a few to give some examples.



What's amazing to me is that our ministry of 8 people have communicated His word, or in the very least, introduced Jesus Christ nearly 51,000 times since Dec 2010.

- We need at least 1 more person to help record the 2nd service on a rotating schedule. More than 1 would be ideal but at least 1 is needed.
- James Forest will be unable to help for several weeks after January 4th. He's having knee replacement surgery. Please keep James in your prayers.
- 1st service is now recorded to VHS & DVD. The VHS tape still goes to BV Community Television. The DVD will be converted and uploaded to YouTube.

As always, I appreciate the help every one of the Media Team provides during worship on Sundays. If you would like to become a member of this dynamic team, please contact me. Thank you!

Blessings,

*Troy Jorgensen*, Media Ministry Director

[troy@lovelearnlead.com](mailto:troy@lovelearnlead.com)



## MISSIONS

### Adventures at Helping Hands

November 15<sup>th</sup> dawned unseasonably cold outside, but that didn't deter the intrepid volunteers, George Brannon, Dennis Reed, Jack Hollingsworth, Darrell Bottjen and Robert Greene from arriving at Helping Hands bright and cheery, ready to tackle the mounds of donations needing to be brought inside. Much jocular and male bonding ensued throughout the morning. Despite their overwhelming desire to continue, they were relieved at noon by an equally enthusiastic crew consisting of Ed Fischer, Chet Campbell, Keith Prueitt and Jim Prather.

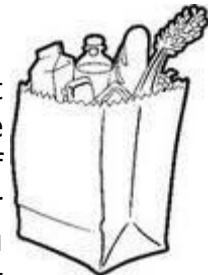
Meanwhile, inside the ample and very busy sales floor, the women of FUMCBV were not to be outdone. The cash registers were "manned" by Shirley Wenger and Lynn Prueitt, assisted by expert baggers, Julie Fischer and Co Ellen Sterwald. Mickey Shank filled in ably at the Jewelry counter while new volunteers, Denise Healy and Sue Prather were introduced to the various other tasks available by Verna Bottjen. Cheryl Campbell and Maryann Johnson took over other tidying and necessary organizing jobs. Later in the afternoon, the ladies did some shifting around of duties so that everyone had a chance to try new things or shop a little to take advantage of receiving discounts on purchases for volunteers. And so, the day ended (at 4:00 p.m.) with all participants fairly tired but once again feeling good that they were able to help!

In addition to this "story", I will say that the year is ending fairly well for this organization. There were some slow months but some adjustments were made to keep expenses down. We can report that 86.77% of every dollar goes back into the community. They have 700 hams available to distribute over Thanksgiving and Christmas and several churches are planning on providing food "baskets" to go along with them. They have children coming on Black Friday to purchase four items for a dollar for their parents. The biggest problem at this point is the decline in volunteers during the week. Please consider helping. Our next scheduled church Saturday is unusually soon, it will be on January 24<sup>th</sup> - mark your new 2015 calendars! THANKS to all who work there!

*Verna Bottjen and Shirley Wenger,*  
Helping Hands Representatives

### Pak A Sak

Sunday, December 21, Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter will be the recipient of our collection of food. This is a temporary home for children from infants thru teens. Their lives, through no fault of their own, are in peril for many reasons. All types of non-perishable food items are needed including cereal, canned fruit, juice, soups and food for infants. Thank you for all your donations to PAK A SAK in 2014 which have helped men, women, and children in Benton County. MAY ALL OF YOU HAVE BLESSED CHRISTMAS SEASON. *Sue Nebrig*



### The Goat Bank that Isn't....

Usually at this time of year, we put out the Goat Bank and buy something from Heifer Project. This year, the Goat Banks will be out for your quarters, but instead of purchasing something from Heifer, we're raising funds for the "Feed the Funnel" Party January 24th.

Working with **The Pack Shack**, we will host a meal-packing party on January 24. Our goal is to pack 10,000 meals. Each meal costs \$.25. The meals will then be donated to local food banks. Everyone can be a part of the "party"! From 2 to 102 - there's a job for everyone. This is a perfect project for families, children, youth, circles, shepherd groups, Sunday school classes - everyone! Be on the look out for more information!





## Shoebox

We delivered 199 shoe boxes and 68 Sunshine Sacks for the month of November. It is now



time to be thinking of delivering for Christmas. It is a busy time for us. There are so many people in need and with the cold weather coats, hats and gloves are needed. If you have any of these items and are not sure how to get them to those who need them directly, please give them to Shoebox or call Diane Cox at 925-0988. Remember while it is nice to give them to one of the thrift stores, they are put up for sale. Although the funds are used to help the needy it is not a direct method of distribution.

Speaking of thrift stores, the Northwest Arkansas Women's Shelter has a new address for their thrift store. It is 1622 S. 8th Street in Rogers. Take Walnut to business 71, turn right and it is in the Southgate shopping center.

Thank you to the United Methodist Men for their generous donation for 2014.

Volunteers Millie Davidson, Vicki Forrest, Carlene Jerman, Arlene Alford, Mona Johnson, Sue Prather, Judie Packard, Karen Roenfeld, and Diane Cox, packed gloves and ponchos, women's cosmetic bags for Christmas, items for the troops overseas and sorted items received that aren't packed in shoeboxes to be given to agencies needing items for gifts for the holidays.

A big thank you to all.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. May we all "Remember the Reason for the Season"

As always in His name,

*The Shoebox Ministry Team Leaders*

## MISSION OF THE MONTH SOULS HARBOR NWA

Souls Harbor is a transitional living facility for men. We provide food, clothing, shelter, and job opportunities free of charge, while walking alongside men *who are ready* to RECONSTRUCT their lives. We only serve men who are willing to seek and gain full-time employment and/or continue their education through community programs. Instead of charging rent, we developed a work program we call "Sweat Equity." In addition to household chores, preparing meals, and maintaining the grounds, we require each resident to volunteer in our work program.

A Kingdom Vision

Many motivations and strategies are behind various attempts to help the materially poor, but we hope to alleviate the spiritual poverty that lies just below the surface in every one of us, regardless of our achievements or possessions. *The power of the program is its focus on restoring four broken relationships: with self, with God, with others and with the community.* Our leadership and volunteers have transformed the ways we walk alongside dozens of men at a time who, in a material sense, have found themselves temporarily or chronically homeless. We know that people don't need a hand out, but rather a dignifying hand up to a brighter future. We are committed to being that helping hand. We are also striving to become a model organization that blazes the trail for a new standard of care for the homeless.

Souls Harbor has undergone a radical transformation both physically and philosophically. Our mission to help homeless men make connections has been merged with a passion to facilitate community development. Souls Harbor continually looks for new ways to lead individuals toward self-sufficiency, but also to re-integrate them into our community. Programs like Hire at the Harbor are providing real world work for residents. The Urban Farm provides not only fresh produce for residents but also income for improvements to the facility.



## THANK YOU S and SHEPHERD GROUPS

We want you to know how much we appreciate the love you showed on our 78th anniversary with the calls, cards, and especially the reception on Sunday. We will always remember the times at our church and Bella Vista. We are proud to be charter members of FUMCBV and want to say thanks to so many who put so much time in to making our church so successful. Our Church was chartered to be a help to all, and because of you, we are. *Wayne & Ara Mae Cathoun*

### A SPECIAL GRATITUDE

- I am grateful for Ashley Mersereau's Love Story of Jesus Christ and the young people in Lebanon and the Middle East. A story of courageousness in response to God's call to a region filled with daily uncertainty and war. It is a story of courage and faith while ignoring the possibility of consequences, as she shared the Good News of Jesus with Christians and Muslims with boldness and faith.
- I am grateful for the various groups who financially sponsored the dinner, for those who assisted in the preparation of the dinner and those who cleaned up the mess in the kitchen as well as after the meal.
- I am grateful for those who attended the Mission Dinner, in spite of the threatening weather, and listened attentively to a story of love.
- I am grateful to Pastor Jaimie for giving his permission for this mission dinner, and his overall support.
- Finally, I am grateful to God for showing me that young people are still responding to His call to sacrificial ministry in this day and age.

*Rev. Albert Fisher*

Thank you for all of the cards, expressions of sympathy, memorial gifts and prayers for Jim and our family. Also, thank you to Bro. Jaimie and Pastor Zach for conducting the memorial service, the Agape Shepherd Group for hosting a luncheon for our family and the UMW for providing refreshments at the reception following the service. It is comforting to have the support of our church family.  
*Pat Fox and Family*

Thank you to all my church family for the love and support given to me through the many months of health problems I have endured. The cards, food, phone calls, hospital visits, smiles, hugs, rides, and especially the prayers that surrounded me daily. I am so happy to be a part of this caring community of Christian friends. I am mending well and will be more visible at church in the weeks to come. It has been a long, slow process but all of you and our healing God have been with me through every step of the way. Thank you my friends. I love you all!  
*Diane Verville*

We want to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make the luncheon for our granddaughter, Ashley, such a success. To Albert for organizing everything, to all the volunteers who donated the delicious food, and their time and service to help set up, serve, and then clean up afterward. And to all who attended and received Ashley and her message so graciously and then supported her so generously with donations. I prayed so hard that we wouldn't have any ice to make it dangerous for attendees to get home and God heard our prayers...the roads remained safe for all of us to get home safely. Thank you so much!!!  
*Dick & Karen Bacon*




**SHEPHERD GROUP ONE** has made arrangements for our group to attend the **BELLA VISTA MEN'S CHORUS CONCERT** on **Sunday, December 14th at 3:00 p.m.**, at the **Community Church**. One important suggestion: arrive early for good parking and good seating. Also, there will be a good-will offering. We cannot go without mentioning that two gentlemen in our shepherd group, *Jim Bilyeu and Jack Kolbe*, sing/solo in the chorus which makes it even more special. Following the concert, plans have been made for dinner (approximately 5:00 p.m.) at **El Pueblito's Mexican Restaurant** on **Forest Hills Blvd**. The restaurant has a limited American menu as well. IT IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT EVERYONE RSVP TO CAROL ZURN, 423-829-5141, NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11TH.

Please contact Jean Swanson, 876-1126, if you have questions or concerns.

**METFIELD METHODISTS** and **SUNRISE SHEPHERD GROUPS** will meet Thursday, December 11 at 5:30 in Becker Hall for a potluck dinner ~ the MMs will furnish vegetables & desserts & the program. Sunrise will furnish the rest. Last year there were about 30 attending for the food, fun and frivolity. Please let your respective shepherd group know if you will be attending or not, no later than Monday, December 8th. Come join the fun!!

Dear **2SERVE SHEPHERD GROUP** Members, We have scheduled our next gathering on Friday, December 19 at 9:00am at Papa Mike's for Christmas breakfast. Please let us know whether or not you will attend before Wednesday, December 17. We hope to see you there!

# December 2014

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY  | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY  |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|
|   | <b>1</b><br>9:00 Deck the Halls<br>10:00 Staff Meeting<br>11:45 Women's Chorus<br>6:00 Cross Country Bnqt<br>6:00 By the Book AA  | <b>2</b><br>10:00 Disciple I<br>10:00 Prayer Shawl   | <b>3</b><br>7:30 Men's Emmaus<br>8:30 Bible Study<br>9:00 Quilters<br>9:30 Disciple III<br>11:45 UMW Luncheon<br>3:40 Chancel Bells<br>5:30 Prayer Service<br>6:30 Choir Practice<br>7:00 Youth Life | <b>4</b><br>8:00 Men's Chorus<br>11:00 Golf-Highlands<br>4:50 Sanctuary Bells  | <b>5</b><br>9:00 Gospel Bible Stdy  | <b>6</b><br>8:30 Yng at Heart<br>9:00 Amp Big Book                          |
| <b>7</b><br>BPV between services<br>7:30 Praise Tm rehrl<br>8:00 Traditional Service<br>9:30 "The Well" Service<br>9:30 Sunday School<br>10:45 Traditional Service<br>5:00 Youth Bible Stdy  | <b>8</b><br>9:00 Caregivers Supprt<br>9:30 DAR<br>10:00 Staff Meeting<br>11:00 PEO-CD<br>11:45 Women's Chorus<br>12:00 Calico Cut-ups Brd<br>4:00 Guest Followup<br>6:00 By the Book AA | <b>9</b><br>9:00 PEO-BR<br>10:00 Disciple I<br>10:00 Prayer Shawl<br>1:00 Naomi Circle<br>1:00 Sarah Circle<br>1:30 Member Meeting<br>2:00 Brd of Directors<br>5:30 Agape SG | <b>10</b><br>7:30 Men's Emmaus<br>8:30 Bible Study<br>9:00 Quilters<br>9:30 Disciple III<br>3:40 Chancel Bells<br>5:30 Prayer Service<br>6:30 Choir Practice<br>6:30 UMM Dinner<br>7:00 Youth Life   | <b>11</b><br>8:00 Men's Chorus<br>11:00 Golf-CC<br>1:00 Hope Circle<br>4:50 Sanctuary Bells<br>5:00 Metfld/Sunrise SG<br>6:30 Evening Circle | <b>12</b><br>9:00 Gospel Bible Stdy<br>10:00 Cantata Rehrl<br>11:30 Preschl Brd Mtng  | <b>13</b><br>9:00 Amp Big Book<br>11:00 Renwl of Vows<br>2:00 Cantata Rehrl |
| <b>14</b> <b>CHRISTMAS CANTATA</b><br>7:30 Praise Tm rehrl<br>8:00 Traditional Service<br>9:30 "The Well" Service<br>9:30 Sunday School<br>10:45 Traditional Service<br>12:00 all-church Potluck<br>2:00 Calhoun Recitals<br>5:00 Youth Bible Stdy | <b>15</b><br>9:00 Martha Circle<br>10:00 Staff Meeting<br>11:45 Women's Chorus<br>6:00 By the Book AA   | <b>16</b><br>10:00 Disciple I<br>10:00 Prayer Shawl<br>11:30 Moving Forward<br>1:00 BV Book Club   | <b>17</b><br>7:30 Men's Emmaus<br>8:30 Bible Study<br>9:00 Quilters<br>9:30 Disciple III<br>3:40 Chancel Bells<br>5:30 Prayer Service<br>6:30 Choir Practice<br>7:00 Youth Life                      | <b>18</b><br>11:00 Golf-Dogwood<br>4:50 Sanctuary Bells  | <b>19</b><br>9:00 Gospels Study<br>9:00 2Serve SG Brkfst                              | <b>20</b><br>9:00 Amp Big Book  |
| <b>21</b> <b>PAK A SAK</b><br>7:05 Handbell Practice<br>7:30 Praise Tm rehrl<br>8:00 Traditional Service<br>9:30 "The Well" Service<br>9:30 Sunday School<br>10:45 Traditional Service<br>5:00 Youth Bible Stdy                                    | <b>22</b><br>9:00 Caregiver Support<br>10:00 Staff Meeting<br>11:30 Calico Cut-ups<br>11:45 Women's Chorus<br>6:00 By the Book AA   | <b>23</b><br>10:00 Disciple I<br>10:00 Prayer Shawl<br>3:00 BV Library Brd   | <b>24</b><br>7:30 Men's Emmaus<br>8:30 Bible Study<br>9:00 Quilters<br>12:00 Midday Manger<br>3:40 Chancel Bells<br>5:00 Contemp Service<br>7:30 Carols & Communion                                  | <b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS CHURCH CLOSED</b><br>            | <b>26</b> <b>CHURCH CLOSED</b>  | <b>27</b><br>9:00 Amp Big Book  |
| <b>28</b><br>7:30 Praise Tm rehrl<br>8:00 Traditional Service<br>9:30 "The Well" Service<br>9:30 Sunday School<br>10:45 Traditional Service  | <b>29</b><br>10:00 Staff Meeting<br>11:45 Women's Chorus<br>6:00 By the Book AA   | <b>30</b><br>10:00 Disciple I<br>10:00 Prayer Shawl  | <b>31</b><br>7:30 Men's Emmaus<br>8:30 Bible Study<br>9:00 Quilters<br>9:30 Disciple III<br>5:30 Prayer Service<br>7:00 Youth Life   | <b>1</b> <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b><br><b>CHURCH CLOSED</b>   |  |   |

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

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## ***We're Here to Serve You***

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Associate Pastor - Rev. Zach Underwood  
Minister of Congregational Care - Jan Lowe  
Church Secretary - Janet Walton  
Ministerial Intern - Brenda Wildman  
Director of Children's Ministry - Kristin Crider  
Director of Youth Ministry - David Hansen  
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  
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**[www.LoveLearnLead.com](http://www.LoveLearnLead.com)**

**Newsletter Deadline: 15th of the month**

Return service requested

***To the Home of ...***



## **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 have your correct information.  
We will print a special recognition insert for the December 21<sup>st</sup> bulletin with the  
information you give us. After Christmas, you may take your Poinsettia home.

We ordered our poinsettias from the Bella Vista Kiwanis Club this year.  
They are purchasing their plants from Matkins Nursery in Bentonville.  
100% of their profit goes back to the children of Bella Vista.