



Pilgrim's Progress

JANUARY 2010 Issue



"The purpose of this church shall be to bind together followers of Jesus Christ, for the object of sharing in the worship of God and in seeking His will for our lives, especially as that will is set forth in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ."

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New Year's Message

FROM THE PASTOR

Historically, the Christmas Season is a 40 day interval beginning four Sundays prior to Christmas Day (Advent) and ending twelve days after Christmas Day on Epiphany (January 6th). The "twelve days of Christmas," representing the journey of the Magi (few or many), were wise enough to respond to a "God Call" upon their lives. The idea that there were three comes from the specific items of "royal" significance: gold, incense and myrrh (see Matthew 2:1-12). The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival" and quite often Christians forget that Jesus promised His disciples a second Advent (see John 14:26-29). He came the first time as the Prince of Peace, the next time He will come as the King of Glory.

The message of Epiphany is to recognize a truth (gift) from God and use it appropriately. So, let us continue on our journey of coming to Jesus. . . just like the Wise Men of old, that we might gain eternal gifts of truth.

Think about it. Until then I am . . .
Your Servant and His,
Pastor Barry



**WORSHIP SERVICES:
8 & 10:30 A.M.
BELL CHOIR PRACTICE: 8:30 A.M.
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 A.M.
CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE: 9:30 A.M.**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
EVENTS NOT BEING HELD THIS MONTH: NOOMA Nites Cancer Support Groups Cum Double Amity Women's Fellowship Church Women United					1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 W.W.
3	4	5 **Girls of Grace II 3:30 pm @ the Holmes' home	6 FCC Church Mtg. Led by the Bd. of Trustees 6:30 pm W.W.	7 W.W.	8 FCC Stamp Club 10 am	9 Removal of Christmas decorations from Sanctuary 9:30 am W.W.
10	11	12 **	13 Youth Nite 6-8 pm Trustees Mtg. 6:30 pm W.W.	14 W.W.	15	16 W.W.
17 ANNUAL FCC MEETING Potluck meal	18	19 ** Deacons Mtg. 6:30 pm	20 W.W.	21 W.W.	22 FCC Stamp Club 10 am	23 Meals-On-Wheels 11 am @ MMSC W.W.
24 Ben. & Missions Mtg. 11:45 am	25	26 **	27 W.W.	28 W.W.	29	30 Meals-On-Wheels 11 am @ MMSC W.W.
31	W.W. = Weight Watcher meetings					

Wishing You a
Happy Birthday!

- 1 Bing McHone
- Quinton Norman
- 3 Janice Jordan
- 6 Max Canfield
- Aaron Dickey
- 8 Rod Hassler
- 9 Sue Horn
- 11 Jennifer Howard
- 12 Elliott Stanley
- 13 Larry Koepnick
- Jenni Packer
- 14 Cameron Vranek
- 15 Janet Breed
- Connie Lyman
- 19 Kristin Meyer
- 20 Pauline Mairs
- 21 Travis Byers
- 22 Harriet Arklie
- 23 Joan Carter
- Barry Sedlacek
- 24 David Berg
- Sarah Grabe
- 25 LeAnn Fuller
- John Olson
- Jonna Wagar
- 26 Debi Estabrook
- 27 Barb Scafferi
- 29 Blake Latham
- 31 Jayne Bonnette
- Brenda Morris



This Month's Anniversaries

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

- Todd & Leah Stanley 1/4/2003
- Mike & Joan Gerbo 1/11/2000



Please keep our
Members in Care
Facilities in
your Thoughts
and Prayers:

- Mary Wilson
- Helen Berg
- Olive Showalter
- Woody Shives
- Mary Young
- Zora Dysart



From our Diaconate:

Many thanks to all those who helped decorate the sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas season. We ask all those who can, please come join us on Saturday, January 9th at 9:30 a.m. to take down the decorations.

From FCC Member:

Thank you so very much for the prayers, gifts and love I received over the past few months after my surgery and my recouping at Villa del Sol. I am now at home. Praise the Lord! With Love, Pattye Morrison

BE THE CHANGE

It's that time of year again! Girl Scout Cookies are an icon of American culture. They are also the backbone of the Girl Scout Cookie Program, the leading entrepreneurial program for girls. Proceeds from your purchase support Girl Scouts in our community. This year's cookie sale theme is LEAP2LEAD and it is a call to action for girls to leap into leadership activities and help change the world. We will be selling cookies between **January 8 and 31.** Please let us know if you would like to purchase some delicious cookies.

Thank you for supporting **Ambassador Girl Scout Troop #162.**

Danielle Propst & Katie Woltjer



Nichole (Swope) Wimberly's husband:

LCPL Wimberly S.W.
 CLC 252 Ds 1 Dwyer
 Unit 73662
 FPO AE 09510-3662

Bill & Lynn Maas' nephew:
 Major John C. Welch
 US NSE
 HQ ISAF
 APO AE 09356

**TO: THE CHURCH FAMILY
FROM: YOUR TRUSTEES**

A new year is approaching and we find ourselves in a much differed position. With your help and prayers and a positive approach we can be winners for the Lord. Herein, you will see the Trustees proposed budget for 2010. We have seen a 25 to 28% decline in our offering plate. We do realize that times are tight for a lot of people.

It reminds me of a story from a long time ago and verse.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Pass before the people and take with you some of the elders of Israel; and take in your hand your staff... I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it that people may drink."

And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. Exodus 17:5-6

As a sinner, man does not deserve God's gracious love, but God cares for man in spite of his sin.

Ask and you shall receive. He will help.

On January 6th we will have a Trustees Meeting and would very much like to have as many of our church family attend. Within our family there are answers.

This year's Annual Meeting will be January 17th following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The meal is potluck with the Board of Trustees supplying the ham. If you are willing and able, please bring a side dish to share (i.e. vegetables, salad or dessert).

God Bless,
Your Trustees

Proposed 2010 Operating Budget

	<i>Proposed Budget Amt</i>	<i>Percent of Budget</i>
Income:		
Tithes and Offerings	\$147,000	71%
Weight Watchers	\$3,360	2%
Miscellaneous Income	\$6,240	3%
Transfer from Trust Funds	\$50,400	24%
TOTAL INCOME	\$207,000	100%
Expenses:		
Benevolence & Missions	\$6,000	3%
Diaconate & Pastorate	\$2,000	1%
Christian Education	\$5,250	3%
Fine Arts & Music	\$500	0%
Trustees	\$2,500	1%
Miscellaneous	\$3,500	2%
* Building Maintenance	\$51,000	25%
** Administration & Office	\$136,250	66%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$207,000	100%
* Denotes Mostly Fixed Expenses		
** Denotes Mostly Fixed Expenses and Salaries		

Budget parameters approved by the Trustees on 11-18-09:

1. Reduce salaries by 3%
2. Reduce 'discretionary' expenses by 50%
3. Maintain 'fixed' expenses at 2009 level.
4. Increase transfer from trust funds from \$3,200 to \$4,200 per month.

The Season of Giving

Strands of lights are being tucked back away. Needles litter the floor crunching and snapping underfoot, reminding us of where the tree just stood. Colorful bits of paper stick to the bottom of our socks and wrapping central is a riotous rainbow of a mess. These are great reminders of Christmas and the joyful season we associate with gift giving. I hope that your holidays were full of the warmth of our greatest gift, Christ's abiding love for us and his incomparable sacrifice for our salvation.

No matter what the circumstances we found ourselves in during the month of December, I'm guessing the vast majority of us *felt* the joy of God's generous present to us at some point in our holiday preparations. We felt it in a way that penetrated to our core. I believe God instills this capacity in us purposely. He wants us to internalize the warmth generated from his magnanimity and seek ways to sustain that warmth by following His generous example, not just at Christmas, but throughout the year.

We cannot out-give God; all that we have is from our Lord and is entrusted to us as His stewards.

Christ said, *"All I have is yours, and all you have is mine."* John
17:10

*Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down,
shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap.
For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*
Luke 6:38

As we begin a new year, I am ever so grateful for this church and all who make it part of my family of faith. I have been humbled to serve as your moderator for these last two and a half years and wish the very best to those who will follow me in church leadership. Our new year brings ongoing opportunities for giving. I for one will continue to seek ways to give of my time, talent, energy and material resources. I invite all of you to likewise commit in new ways and at new levels to our church, for all that we enjoy is available at some cost, but ironically, the more we give, the more we receive.

Begin by giving your time and thoughtful consideration at the Annual Meeting slated for January 17, 2010, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. This is an important opportunity for all of us to be reminded of the many achievements of the past year and the exciting and challenging circumstances and plans for 2010. Among the most important agenda items will be the following. 1) Approve a budget for our church - pledges were substantially down in for 2010. It means cut backs are required, and/or we need to reconsider our pledges. 2) Review a 2010 Sabbatical Plan for our Pastor and our Church. We will learn much about this opportunity at the meeting and in the months to come. 3) Consider a By-Law amendment that pertains to the Personnel Committee at our church and another that affords us freedom to use modern technology to communicate plans for the Annual Meeting and proposed By-Law amendments or revisions.

I look forward to seeing you all one last time as moderator. I look forward to seeing you regularly under any other circumstances in the days, weeks, months and years to come as brothers and sisters in faith.

In Christian Love,
Kim Schryver

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- Address Service Requested -

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A member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

