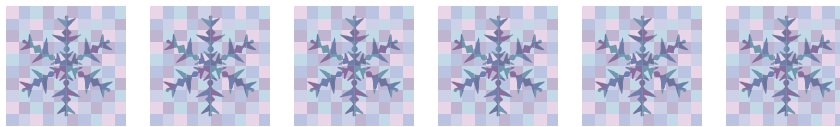


ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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THE VISITOR

Zion United Church of Christ



Our Mission: Connecting People With God

Volume XXII Issue 1 Jan. 2012

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS: A MESSAGE FROM WENDY BRUNER

This month we sit down - perhaps for the first time since the holiday season began - take a deep breath, and wonder just how we will pay for the Christmas season. Credit card bills arrive this month that reflect our Christmas spending. Anne D'Innocenzio, in a December 15th article with the Associated Press, said that retailers expected US sales in November and December to be close to \$470 billion. WOW! What a lot of Christmas presents.

This is also the month we think about the kings - the wise men - who came to visit Jesus. They also brought gifts. Matthew tells it like this:

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were **overwhelmed with joy**. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. (Matthew 2:9-11)

They were "overwhelmed with joy." When was the last time we experienced this kind of emotion when we gave someone a gift? Or has much of the gift giving we participate in these days been done more in a panic - worried that our gift will not be what the receiver wanted or concerned that we cannot afford the gift that was requested? I fear many of us have been just plain overwhelmed.



- continued -

Pastor's Ponderings - continued

I ran across a prayer written anonymously by a person in Ghana. I share it with you, hoping that we might take a step back this season and once again experience the **overwhelming joy** that comes with worshipping God:

We offer you, O Ruler of men and women and of heavenly beings, the gold of our costly service. Take the labor of our hands, the skill of our minds, the power of our organization. Purge us of pride, and stir us from sloth, that we, being refined by your grace, may become better servants of your kingdom, now and hereafter.

We offer to you, our Lord and our God, the incense of our worship and our prayer. By the gift of your Holy Spirit, you have hung forth a star in the lowly heaven of every Christian soul; grant us with eager feet to follow wherever it leads, until our searching souls are blessed with the vision of yourself, who are our heaven and our home, for ever.

We offer to you, O Man of Sorrows, the myrrh of your church's sufferings. When we have nothing else to give, this offering remains. Where you are on the cross, there also may your servants be. May your perfect sacrifice avail to make our light affliction redemptive in the world, that sharing the fellowship of your sufferings we may rejoice in the power of your resurrection, now and for ever. Amen.

- Maren C. Tirabest & Kathy Wonson Eddy. Gifts of Many Cultures. (1995)

**ALL CHURCH COOKS NIGHT OUT
FOR ALL MEN & WOMEN OF OUR ZION COMMUNITY**

Monday, January 9 - 6:00pm

Ho Ping Chinese Restaurant (Roseland)

All interested members and friends are encouraged to attend our all church Cooks Night Out at Ho Ping House Chinese Restaurant, on Monday, January 9. This event is sponsored by Zion Sisters of Faith (Women's Guild). Please RSVP to the church office at 233-5446 or to Beth Sargent, 272-0806.

COMING JANUARY 29 (SUNDAY) — "WINTER FEST!" ITALIAN BUFFET - 11:15am
Cost: \$6 per person. Save the date and plan to attend this delicious celebration! RSVPs are welcome and can be made by contacting Cherie Nellis or the church office, 233-5446.

MISSION : 1
ALL GOALS EXCEEDED!

United Church of Christ members donated over 1,450,000 items of healthy food to local food pantries around the country and wrote over 37,000 letters about food policy to members of Congress. They gave \$133,510 to *Neighbors in Need* hunger-related ministries and \$120,548 to East Africa Famine relief.

Thank you to everyone who participated by donating food items, writing letters, or making contributions to *Neighbors in Need*. And special thanks to our children's Sunday School class for counting our food items, listing them on the UCC website and delivering the food to Broadway Christian Parish. - **Mission Ministry**

THANK YOU FROM ZION SISTERS OF FAITH (WOMEN'S GUILD)

With help from our members and friends, Zion Sisters of Faith was able to help the following missions and charitable organizations:

Broadway Christian Parish

Hope Ministries

Crossroads (for children)

Salvation Army

CUE Seminaries

St. Margaret's House

Emmaus House

YWCA

We still have a savings account to help with the purchase of our new kitchen equipment. Thank you, also, to everyone who helped with our Cookie Walk and Breakfast with Santa this year. - **Karen Hintz**

THANK YOU, ZION FAMILY, FROM DEAN VANDALL, BILL LISKOW
AND URIAH JAMES VANDALL LISKOW

Thank you to everyone who attended Dean's graduation party on December 17 in Fellowship Hall. It meant a lot to us to have so many of our friends share in the celebration. - **Dean, Bill and Uriah**

Treasurer's Report As of November 30, 2011

	Month End		Year-to-Date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Offerings & Operating Income	\$ 14,743	\$ 12,245	\$ 124,360	\$ 122,449
Other Income	865	2,305	13,598	23,048
Total Income	15,608	14,550	137,958	145,497
Pastor & Staff Expenses	(8,311)	(9,181)	(68,774)	(91,806)
Property Expenses	(3,859)	(2,633)	(32,943)	(26,331)
Benevolence & Other Expenses	(1,182)	(4,219)	(43,500)	(42,190)
Total Expenses	(13,352)	(16,033)	(145,217)	(160,327)
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 2,256	\$ (1,483)	\$ (7,259)	\$ (14,830)
Mission Possible	\$ 6,188	\$ -	\$ 48,417	\$ -

Fund Balances	November	Total
Total Unrestricted	\$ 659	\$ 55,836
Temporarily Restricted:		
Benevolence Fund	564	16,006
Property Fund	52	20,369
New Building Fund	7,670	327,143
Scholarship Fund	114	373
Other Restricted	24	42,167
Total Restricted	8,424	406,058
Permanently Restricted:		
Scholarship Endow ment	14	24,835
Zahner Benevolence Endow ment	(96)	3,482
Other Endow ments	4	16,558
Total Endowments	(78)	44,875
Total Fund Balances	\$ 9,005	\$ 506,769

BAPTISMS IN OUR ZION COMMUNITY

Anya Philabaum, daughter of Sarah and Randy Philabaum was baptized on December 18, 2011. Congratulations to grandmother, Nancy Philabaum and great-grandmother Helen Bentzen.

Grace Olivia Oneese, daughter of Callie and Justin Oneese, was baptized on December 18, 2011. Congratulations to brother Caleb and proud grandparents, Cathy and John Bair.



**WE ARE THANKFUL FOR
MEMORIAL DONATIONS RECEIVED**

A memorial donation was given by Don Zutter **in memory of Marge Swartz**;
A memorial donation was given by Don Zutter **in memory of Mary Newcomer**.
Several memorial donations have been given **in memory of Joyce Goffeney**. A list is being compiled.

**THANK YOU, ZION CHURCH, FROM
THE FAMILY OF JOYCE GOFFENEY**

Thank you to everyone who attended visitation and the funeral and to those of you who sent cards, flowers, memorials and other kind expressions of sympathy. We truly appreciate each and every one. - **Julie & Mike Niedbalski, Carol Calloway, Jeff Goffeney, and Erin and Keri Niedbalski**

**ZION EXPRESSES SYMPATHY
TO THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF
Joyce E. Goffeney**

Joyce Goffeney, 82, passed away on December 9, 2011. Her funeral service was on December 14. We express deep sympathy to Joyce's daughters, Julie (Mike) Niedbalski and Carol Calloway; son, Jeff Goffeney of Texas; granddaughters Erin and Keri and to all of Joyce's family and friends.

**ZION EXPRESSES SYMPATHY
TO THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF
Evelyn Dust**

Evelyn Dust, 94, passed away on November 18, 2011. Her funeral service was on November 22. We express deep sympathy to Evelyn's family and friends.

**THANK YOU, ZION CHURCH,
FROM MERCEDES DEPOY**

Thank you for your generous and useful gift of a Martin's gift certificate. I truly appreciate your thoughtfulness. - **Mercedes Depoy**

**EVENING BIBLE STUDY NOW MEETS
ON THURSDAYS!**

Meets at 6:00pm in Parlor

JANUARY 5: No Bible Study (Worship Ministry)

JANUARY 12: Bible Study

JANUARY 19: Bible Study

JANUARY 26: Bible Study

Contact: Judy Waldo



JANUARY MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

- Deacons** 1 & 8 - John Bair and Bill Wagoner
 15, 22 & 29 - J. Bair & F. Goldstein
- Greeter** Available
- Ushers** Available
- Liturgist** 1 - Laura Navarro
 8 - Tom Whipkey
 15 - To Be Announced
 22 - Tom Whipkey
 29 - To Be Announced
- Communion Servers** TBA
- Audio** Rick Muhlbeier
- Visual** Julie Niedbalski
- Altar Paraments** Michelle Seals
- Coffee Hosts** 1 (No Coffee Hour)
 8 Available
 15 Available
 22 Available

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Emmi Rosin
 1 Bill Wagoner
 1 Lorraine Besemer
 1 Karen Hintz
 1 Susan Goldstein
 2 Joshua Grose
 5 Jacob DuBrava
 5 Matthew DuBrava
 6 Alva Hohl
 6 Tonia Bayless
 8 David Gerth
 8 Jason Nitz
 9 Michael Ginter
 9 Raymond Ginter
 9 Landon Bolen
 10 Theresa Morris
 10 Michelle Seals
 13 Jill Hives
 13 Morgan Grose
 14 Geneva Sweet
 14 Kent Martindale
 15 Jack Sargent
 15 Jonelle Riedel
 16 Matthew Forsythe
 16 Erin Kereszturi
 20 Kaitlyn Muhlbeier
 21 Tiffany Newhouse
 21 Norah Williamson
 22 Julie Cox
 23 Jean Savarese
 24 Elizabeth McGowan
 24 Bill Carrico
 24 Tia Wilson
 26 Ed Schafer
 30 Deborah Leopold
 30 Paige Mayers

REMINDERS:
January 9, 2012 is an all-church Cooks Night Out at Ho Ping House in Roseland. Please RSVP to Beth Sargent, 272-0806 or the Church Office, 233-5446.
February 4, 2012 is a Women's Retreat at Zion for all area UCC Churches. Please contact Judy Waldo, 256-6650.
February 5, 2012 is UCC Women's Sunday, when women lead our worship service.

<u>Worship Attendance</u>	
Dec. 4	83
Dec. 11	99
Dec. 18	116
Dec. 25	tba

Newsletter Deadline
 Deadline for articles for the January issue of *The Visitor* is Sunday, Jan. 15. Submitting articles earlier would be even better.

WORSHIP MINISTRY MEETING
January 5 at 5:30pm
 Please note that Worship Ministry is meeting on Thursday, January 5, at 5:30pm.



**HELPING HAND CART FOCUS:
Women & Children Served by YWCA**

During the months of January, February and March, we will collect donations for the YWCA on the Helping Hand Cart. Items needed include:

- * Diapers (sizes 4, 5 and 6)
- * Shampoo
- * Large Size (large size)
- * Deodorant (large size)
- * Toothbrushes (youth & adult)
- * Toothpaste
- * Advil
- * Aspirin
- * Sheets
- * Towels
- * Washcloths

The YWCA helps women who are victims of domestic violence or who need job training and education to find a better life for themselves and their children. - **Missions Ministry**

**YWCA - helping women
& children**

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS - 2012

Sundays: 10:30 - 11:30am

In January and February, we will continue on a tour of Galilee and Jerusalem with two noted Jesus scholars, John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg. During this study, *First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God*, we will view a 20 minute video and then use the remainder of time in discussion led by Pastor Wendy. Join this exciting and thought provoking series about Jesus' ministry as often as you can!

January 1: Happy New Year! (No class)

January 8: Parables as Lures

January 15: Book Reviews. (Pastor Wendy will be Ordained today in St. Louis!) Bring a favorite fiction or non-fiction book or title to share with others — or come and get some books for your reading list. A list of suggested books and authors will be compiled for your winter reading.

January 22: Jesus as Lord

January 29: Substitutionary Atonement?

SISTERS OF FAITH GROUP (WOMEN'S GUILD)

NEXT MEETING: December 12 - 6:00pm - Fellowship Hall

Potluck & Candlelight Worship Service

JANUARY 9 (Monday): All-Church "Cooks Night Out" on January 9 at 6pm. Location to be announced.

FEBRUARY 5 (Sunday): UCC Women's Sunday. Women lead worship.

Sisters of Faith Leadership Committee:

Beth Green, Karen Hintz, Rhonda Meece, Beth Sargent, and Judy Waldo

SISTERS OF FAITH

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Worship 9:00 am
Fellowship Time 10:00 am
Sunday School 10:30 am

Church Office Hours
Monday-Friday
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Zion UCC Board of Elders

John Bair
Becky DeBruyn
Rich Cullar
Dana Forsythe
Beth Green
Matthew Forsythe
Sue Goldstein
Gail Marti
Rick Muhlbeier
Nancy Philabaum
Dean Vandall
Sandy Weides

We're On The Web!
<http://www.zionsb.org>

“Connecting People With God”



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FEB. 5 - WOMEN 'S RETREAT @ ZION - 9:00am

FEB. 6 - UCC WOMEN' S SUNDAY - 9:00am

*****All Church Cooks Night Out - 6:00pm*****

Our Church Community

Ministers

Every Member of the Congregation

Pastor

Wendy Bruner

Home Phone: (574) 387-5662

Cellular Phone: (314) 600-7645

Music Director

Misty Grubbs

Organist

Sarah Schubert

Administrative Assistant

Pauline Mudis

Bookkeeper

Jan Raymond

Custodian

Matthew Forsythe

Board of Elders Officers

President

Matthew Forsythe

Vice President

Cheryl Nellis

Secretary

Nancy Philabaum

Treasurer

Dana Forsythe



“The Visitor” is a monthly publication of Zion United Church of Christ. News and articles for “The Visitor” must be submitted to the Church Office no later than the second Sunday of each month. Sunday bulletin announcements must be in the Church Office by noon each Wednesday.