



**St. John's  
Chapel  
United Church  
of Christ**

4344 S. Fremont  
Avenue  
Springfield, MO  
65804-7306

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[pastor@stjohnschapel.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnschapel.org)  
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Sunday School -  
9:15 AM

Worship - 10:30 AM

Pastor  
Rev. Becky Hebert

Associate Pastor  
Stephan Scharf

Pastor Emeritus  
Rev. Robert M. Dohm

Council President  
Dennis Gromer

Council Vice President  
Jim May

Board of Christian  
Education Chair  
Eleanor Berger

Board of Service  
Ministries Chair  
Elaine Tebbenkamp

**Our Mission  
Statement:**

*St. John's Chapel UCC is called to love unconditionally, seek justice, foster spiritual growth, and embrace diversity of thought and body as taught by Jesus Christ.*

# THE MESSENGER

## Pastoral Reflections

by Pastor Becky Hebert



December 2011  
Volume 67  
Number 28

Advent is upon us! The season of waiting and anticipation of the arrival of something special. Of course, that something special for which we await is the birth of Christ. Even though that's past history. We await Jesus' birth as if it was happening soon for the first time. Advent is a time for remembering the first witnesses to God's incarnation in Jesus of Nazareth as if we were also an onlooker. We see ourselves there to hear with Elizabeth the good news that Mary carries in her womb the Savior for which we have waited so long. It is a time for acknowledging that Christ is born ever anew in our midst, and that we too bear witness to the miracle.

Bringing the past into the present as if it is happening today is called **Salvation History**. Christians practice this not just at Christmas time, we do it all year long. From Advent through the Reign of Christ Sunday, we remember our Salvation history as something that impacts our lives today.

Saint Ignatius used to instruct his students to meditate on scripture as if they were present, to allow the events of long ago to take shape in their imagination as if happening today. The results of this type of prayer freed St. Ignatius from worldly attachment and enabled a discovery of God's will for his life.

Experience has taught me that the fruits of bringing past salvific events into the present are many: transformation, hope, insights, repentance, a gentle strength and courage to do God's will. And I'm sure I have not begun to exhaust the list of the fruits or gifts of Salvation History.

I'd love to give all of you the gift of imaginative meditation this Christmas, but it is a gift only you can give yourself. To do so, you may need to wrestle with some cultural indoctrination under which we labor. We belong to a society that values activity and views time spent in quiet solitude as laziness. So sit down and have a long talk with yourself about how this may be the most important work of your life. Others will find you more pleasant to be with, it will alleviate "burn-out," and in the long run you will get more done.

I recommend to you for imaginative reflection the passages of scripture from the this year's Advent and Christmas lectionary:

1st Sunday of Advent	Mark 13: 24-37
2nd Sunday of Advent	Mark 1: 1-8
3rd Sunday of Advent	John 1: 6-8, 19-28
4th Sunday of Advent	Luke 1: 26-38
Christmas Eve	Luke 2: 1-20
Christmas Day	John 1: 1-14

I wish for all you a deep felt joy of the season that only comes from an intimate re-creation with God

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,  
Pastor Becky

## COUNCIL MINUTES

November 8, 2011

### November 8, 2011, Council Minutes

#### Members present:

Dennis Gromer, Jim May, Shirley Datema, Curt Bartell, Jeanne Kruger, Elaine Tebbenkamp, Steve Fortner and Pastor Becky

The November meeting was opened with prayer; October Council Minutes had been reviewed and revised via e-mail. Motion was made to approve the October minutes as read; motion was seconded and approved.

### COUNCIL REPORTS

**Vice President:** Jim May; Nothing new to report.

**Financial Secretary:** Shirley Datema reported that total offering for October was \$11,943.91; weekly average offering was \$2,388.78, which was up from this time last year by \$1,909.91. Average Sunday school attendance for October was 9, down by 5 from last year at this time, and average worship attendance was 64, down by 3 from this time last year. So, even though our attendance is down, giving is up, thanks to our generous congregation. Various pass-through amounts were given for Bread For the World, the Joplin Fund, the gift of a communion set to the new West Plains Congregation, and housekeeping/custodial supplies, for a total of \$177. Motion was made and seconded to approve the financial reports for October.

**Treasurer:** Steve Fortner reported that as of October 31, 2011, there was \$13,803.84 in checking and savings. The Mowing fund is \$580 "in the red"; Dennis suggested that, after a request to the congregation for additional mowing funds, if still needed we could transfer the amount from the Emergency fund as a pass-through to the Mowing fund. Pastor Becky will talk with Joe and Danny and stop the mowing for this year. The offerings have been good through October (more than budgeted); Work-

man's Comp. Insurance was paid in the amount of \$1,091.00, which was a little lower than the budgeted amount of \$1,229.00. The Minister's health insurance will be balanced out by the end of the year. So, the October offerings through October 31 are right on target. Total expenses are under, due to the lower salaries of the new music director and the new secretary; the balance at the bank has held steady. The year-to-date Profit and Loss Statement indicates that we will still have a little money at the end of December. Treasurer's reports were approved as reviewed.

**Board of Service Ministries:** Elaine Tebbenkamp reported that we still need greeters on Sunday mornings, and we would appreciate any volunteers. Greeters need to be sure that they wear their name tags.

**Board of Christian Education:** The Board of Christian Education has no representation from Council. Pastor Stephan was functioning in this respect for Council and Pastor Becky agreed to function in this respect for the month of October, but someone else from Council needs to be chosen to serve for future representation at meetings.

Starting Sunday, November 13, after the children's sermon, the children will exit from worship for the children's Christmas pageant practice. The Board of Christian Education's Christmas party is scheduled for Saturday, December 10, at Eleanor Berger's home. The children's Christmas party is scheduled for Saturday, December 17; from 10 a.m. until noon will be Christmas pageant practice, and the party will be from noon until 1 p.m. The Adult Sunday School class will be doing the series of *Unbinding*; all Council members who have not participated in the series are encouraged to do so. The money that was collected to help with the cost of sending children to Camp Aurora summer camp will be distributed to those who attended at 38% per child. A stipulation needs to be made that in the future, we will only give to active members of the congregation.

The brochure that we give to new members needs to be updated as to the list of church activities.

Shirley Datema reported that they had a

beautiful evening for the hayride, although attendance was low.

**Worship and Music:** Curt Bartell reported that we were ready for the holiday activities and that there was a group going to Columbia for the Creative Faith Project Workshop. The group will then convene with the Worship & Music Committee to make decisions on what and when the creative worship services will be.

**Library:** Louise Eggleston will be approved by Friendship Circle to be the Library representative and contact person.

**Building and Grounds:** Shirley Datema's husband Corneil is looking for weather stripping that will be appropriate for the doors that lead off the Fellowship Hall into the Courtyard. Caulking also needs to be done around the windows in Pastor Becky's office, the Workroom window, and the windows in the secretary's office, as these locations are on the north side and cold air blows through the cracks. Costs need to be assigned to each need and project on Custodian Lee's list; Dennis and Pastor Becky will work with Lee on the list of needs for the church and prioritize them.

**Stewardship:** Curt reported that we have finalized the budget and it is very close to last year's amounts. KIDS FIRST has asked for \$400 to be put in the budget to cover part of the cost for playground mulch. Discussion needs to be done on preparing the upcoming lease for KIDS FIRST so that we have a lease ready by January 31, 2012. A Motion was made to approve the new 2012 budget with amendments to the KIDS FIRST income and playground mulch expense, and then the budget to be presented to the congregation for approval; motion was seconded and approved.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Becky has done some follow-up on paying Pastor Stephan extra for his ministry during Pastor Becky's Sabbatical time. She has read over the agreement the Sabbatical Committee had with Stephan and there was agreement to pay a definite \$2,700 for his ministry while she was gone. This amount has been paid. The Sabbatical committee also recommended that any other savings realized from the

congregational grant monies be paid to Stephan. Pastor Becky has talked with Treasurer Steve Fortner on whether any other savings has been realized, and Steve reported that he had not yet had a chance to update the spreadsheet on all of this yet as he did not have all the receipts for expenses calculated. Council approved, per Pastor Becky's request, the last week of vacation for 2011 to be Monday, December 26, through Monday, January 2, 2012. Pastor will meet with the Worship & Music Committee to suggest that the worship for Christmas Day be a "fun" informal time with favorite carols sung and coffee, tea, and cookies to be shared. Pastor Becky will secure someone for the New Year's Day service.

#### Updates and Concerns

Earl Reed is not doing well; he is refusing to eat and drink and is very weak.

Steve Dodge has a slow-growing cancer in his brain, and there will be no surgery.

Virginia Steury was visited at her home and is beginning to show her frailty.

Virginia Shean was visited at her nursing/care facility and is now singing most of the time.

Flo Valentine enjoys cards and visits; she has enjoyed lots of family lately.

Joyce Scroggs needs our prayers for improvement.

Megan Flatbush called Pastor Becky and asked for prayers as she is not doing well at her mother's.

CloElla Leverenz' grandson is having another surgery November 28.

#### Important Upcoming Dates:

**Saturday, November 12,** will be the Creative Faith Project meeting in Columbia, Missouri. Attending will be Pastor Becky, Kyle Aho, Liz Stafford, and Chris Trumbull.

**Friday, November 18 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.** will be Pastor Stephan's "going away" party and celebration of his time with us. Dennis and Cynthia Gromer are opening their home to the congregation for this celebration, and they said that our bringing snacks or hors d'oeuvres would be welcome.

**Saturday, November 26**, we will set-up for the Hanging of the Green at 2 p.m. Please join us in getting everything ready for our worship service.

**Sunday, November 27**, will be the Hanging of the Green Worship Service.

**Thursday, December 1**, the Prayer Group will meet; and, thereafter, they will continue to meet the first Thursday of each month.

Pastor Becky has caught up in her sermon writing, giving her time to work on the Jazz services through the Creative Faith Project and Taize, and will meet with the Worship Committee regarding the times for events to occur. She would also like to revive the YAHOO group and the Junior High Youth Group that Pastor Stephan started this past summer. She is now selecting Advent families to light the Advent candles at worship. Pastor Becky has also now submitted the rest of her sabbatical expenses so that all can be finalized and reimbursed; then we can determine what is left in the account to be spent appropriately.

Pastor Becky has done some follow-up on "Mary, "the person in need this summer, and she is very appreciative of all help from her sponsor.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

The Koinonias Group has paid the counseling expenses that were required for Pastor Stephan on entering Eden Seminary. Dennis Gromer has been in touch and will follow-up with Marmic and Federal Protection Company on the required inspections of the fire alarm system, the burglary alarm system, and the emergency lighting system. He will also monitor and get prices and requirements for the stove hood in the kitchen.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

After the Western Association meeting this weekend, Dennis will have more information about Joplin and will address this issue at the Congregational meeting. Council has chosen a stole as a gift to Pastor Stephan and we will ask for donations from the congregation. Dennis is

working on the agenda for the Congregational meeting that will be presented after Sunday worship services.

#### **The church opener for November is Shirley Datema.**

The meeting was closed by praying the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Jeanne Kruger,  
Council Secretary

### **2011 St. John's Chapel Congregational Meeting November 13, 2011**

The meeting was opened with prayer, and then Council President, Dennis Gromer, presented the proposed 2012 budget to the congregation. Motion was made to accept the 2012 budget as presented; motion was seconded; discussion was encouraged, and motion was then approved with a show of hands. Judy Bartell encouraged support of OCWM, Our Church's Wider Mission, which is what our church is all about, but yet nothing is in the budget. Please give and use the envelopes in the pews for your donations. Indicate on the front of your envelopes that your giving is to be designated for OCWM.

Submitted by Jeanne Kruger,  
Council Secretary

### **Board of Service Ministries November 7, 2011**

#### **Nov. 7, 2011 BOSM MEETING MINUTES**

The Board of Service Ministries meeting was held on Monday, Nov. 7, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. and opened with the group reciting St. John's Chapel UCC Mission Statement. Members in attendance were Pastor Becky Hebert, Louise Eggleston, CloElla Leverenz, Kathy Pittman,

Elaine Tebbenkamp, and Johna Steinhauer. The Oct. minutes were approved as written. Treasurer report was given & we have a balance of \$566.25. Elaine reported that Council is looking into the Yellow Pages ad and it is recommended we do not make any more payments until further investigation is completed.

We reviewed visitors to our worship service during Pastor Becky's sabbatical and we still need to do a better job of follow-up. Pastor Becky reported on members she has visited recently who are sick or in nursing homes. She reported that Chris Trumbull will lead the adult Sunday School class in studying "Unbinding the Gospel" and she urged BOSM members who haven't completed the course to attend.

**Old Business:** We need to put a reminder in the Messenger that we are still collecting empty inkjet cartridges as a fundraiser. The first Trunk or Treat went well, was a lot of fun and there was a good turnout. We had some nicely decorated trunks & costumes. If we do it again next year, we hope to have more trunks. A special thanks to our youth for being sign wavers. Beverly handed out our church brochures to some of the parents who said they had no church home.

Discussion was held about making our church more visitor-friendly. Pastor Becky emphasized that we need to strive to be a more welcoming and friendly church. Starting Nov. 13 we will have volunteers who will be greeting people at the doors on Sunday mornings. Valet parking was also discussed for our members who are handicapped or elderly & need assistance, especially during bad weather. Some members have provided this service in the past and we would like to provide this service if needed.

It was also suggested that we once again post pictures of our newest members on the bulletin board. Louise & Johna will gather the pictures and information about our members and display them. We were reminded about where the church's digital camera is stored so that we can take pictures of new members.

The idea of obtaining more easels to display important information in the narthex, instead of having so many tables was suggested. Some temporary displays of artwork in the narthex by

artistic members was discussed. Sending a Christmas care package to serviceman Matt Gromer was approved by the committee and Kathy will research what items we should send. Louise told us that the Prayer Group is going to meet once a month on the first Thursday of each month. Possible candidates for 2012 BOSM vacancies were reviewed and we will make contact with these people.

The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer led by Pastor Becky,

Respectfully submitted,  
Johna Steinhauer

## **WOMEN'S GUILD**

### **November 10, 2011**

The Women's Guild met November 10 with 13 members in attendance. We welcomed Alice Shoemaker as a new member.

Rita Allen gave the program about their trip to Alaska traveling by bus to Seattle then by ship to Alaska.

Patsy Summers gave the devotional "A recipe for Thanksgiving". The October minutes were read, followed by the Treasurer's report. There was a balance on hand of \$624.64. Profit from the bake sale held at the bazaar was \$381.40. Cards were sent to Flo Valentine, Liz Jordan, and Virginia Blumenstock. Sharon reported that enough Best Choice labels were collected and had been mailed.

A prayer shawl will be given to Virginia Steury. One has been given to Beverly Ament, a former member of our church.

A motion was made by Rita, seconded by Sharon, and passed that we give benevolent gifts to Emmaus Home for \$50.00, Evangelical Children's Home for \$50.00, Crosslines for \$100.00, Ozarks Food Harvest for \$100.00, and Pastor Becky for \$25.00.

The December meeting will be a luncheon with the officers providing dessert. Bring children's toys, etc. for under the Christmas tree.

The meeting was closed with a blessing of the prayer shawl for Virginia Steury by Rev. Becky. Refreshments were served by Patsy Summers.

Esther Steinhauer  
Secretary

# December

## Birthdays



- |                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Karen Dodge          | 17 Don Keeton                  |
| 3 Johna Steinhauer     | Jacki Riffey                   |
| 4 Patrick Gromer       | 17 Logan Bartell               |
| 5 Cynthia Gromer       | 18 Eric Rikard                 |
| 6 Kara Blosch          | 19 <b>Betty Huneke 87 yrs.</b> |
| Samantha Hines         | 21 Abbie Bartell               |
| 8 Mike Warkins         | Tim Zay                        |
| 9 Adam Datema          | 23 Larry Pohlman               |
| Susan Thompson         | 24 Joshua Wiese                |
| 10 Elizabeth Pace      | 26 Kevin Graham                |
| 11 Judy Bartell        | 27 Mariah Datema               |
| Mike Blumenstock       | 28 John Allen                  |
| Shari Blumenstock      | Bobby Tillery                  |
| 12 Lindsay Jordan      | Ron Wagner                     |
| Jim Spencer            | 30 Chris Dunham                |
| 13 Rev, Stephan Scharf | Alan Lockhart                  |
| 14 Brian Weide         | Camille Lockhart               |
| Bill Cannady           |                                |
| Charles Dunham         |                                |

As another year comes to an end, and we wish a heartfelt thanks to the many warm and wonderful people here at St John's Chapel. Thank you. Your willingness to serve, support, and be sources of comfort to each other is a blessing.

Thank you to Deanna Armstrong for bringing pictures to the Chapel of the Trunk or Treat sponsored by the BOSM in October.

To all who helped set up for Hanging of the Green.

Thanks to Dennis and Cynthia Gromer for offering their home and hospitality to all who attended Pastor Stephan's going away party.

Thanks to those who helped Dennis and Cynthia and who brought food to the party.

Kudos to Pastor Stephan for being a wonderful asset to our clergy.

Thanks again to the mowers, cleaners and volunteers that keep the Chapel going.

*There are many unmentioned Angels who silently perform acts of kindness every day. Tell others about the Angels Among Us at St. John's Chapel by dropping a note by the office.*

## Anniversaries

- 12 Danny & Joyce Burton, 13 yrs
- 23 Jim May & Donna Harper, 22 yrs
- 27 Dr. John & Diane Kaicher, 26 yrs
- John & Perdy Scafe, 62 yrs**
- 28 Kevin & Janie Scully, 26 yrs.



On our November 8th Crosslines Day, groceries and milk were given to **57 families for a total of 155 people.**

In addition to food donations brought by church members, the amount spent from our pantry fund for groceries and milk was \$252.65. Thank you for the food and monetary donations from individuals and from The Women's Guild. It is very much appreciated. Please bring food items by **Sunday, December 11th** as our next Crosslines Day is **Tuesday, December 13th**. Much appreciation to all who help and provide for our monthly Crosslines



The church will be opened in the month of December by: Dennis Gromer on the 4th and the rest of the month is TBA



SERVICES THIS MONTH

### **Sunday, December 4**

Communion  
Second Sunday in Advent

### **Sunday, December 11**

Third Sunday in Advent  
Christmas Cantata

### **Sunday, December 18**

Fourth Sunday in Advent  
Children's Christmas Pageant

### **Saturday, December 25**

Christmas Eve Candlelight &  
Holy Communion Service, 7:30 pm

### **Sunday, December 25**

### **Merry Christmas!**

Favorite Christmas Hymn Service

## **FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE**

### **November 15, 2011**

There are no minutes from the Friendship Circle at this time.

## **Board of Christian Education**

### **November 6, 2011**

The Board of Christian Education met Sunday, November 6 after worship. Present were Eleanor Berger, Joyce Burton, Chuck Andrews, Pastor Becky, Helen Keeton, and Chris Trumbull.

The secretary and treasurer reports were unavailable. There was no council report. Pastor Becky reported she is scheduling people for Children's Time and Children's Sunday School. The children will begin practicing for their play during Sunday School time beginning November 20.

Under old business the hayride was reported a success with 20-25 in attendance.

The Board of Christian Education Adult Christmas party will be Saturday, December 10 at 5:00 P.M. At Eleanor's.

The children's Christmas party will be Saturday, December 17 from 12-1. They will have pizza and decorate sugar cookies. Their party follows Play rehearsal from 10-12. The children's Christmas play will be presented Sunday, December 18 during worship under the direction of Tona Rowett.

Chris Trumbull reported no new adult Sunday School curriculum will be needed as they will be doing "Unbinding the Gospel" for which we already have books.

Eleanor asked if anyone wished to leave the committee at the end of the year. Helen Keeton requested to do so. She is to find her replacement.

A discussion was again held on distribution of Camp Aurora funds. Since this is no longer a budgeted item the money raised this year will allow for a 38 per cent payment to each 2011 camper. This will be sent along with a letter explaining the new policy. The board approved a new policy to begin in 2012. Reimbursement will be made only to campers who are active participants in the life of St. John's Chapel.

"Active" is described as attending a minimum of 10 church related activities from January through April 2012. Eleanor, or someone designated by her, would record this attendance.

Also, Senior High campers would not be reimbursed. Fundraisers would begin in January with the Gnomes doing the majority of the work. Members of the board were asked to review the section for Board of Christian Education as it appears in our church brochure. This needs to be updated.

There will be no December meeting

Respectfully submitted

Helen Keeton, secretary

## **2011 Advent Calendar**

Sunday, November 27th: First Sunday of Advent  
Hanging of the Green

Judith & Lee Bartell

Sunday, December 4th: Second Sunday of Advent  
Cornel & Shirley Datema

Sunday, December 11th: Third Sunday of Advent  
Christmas Cantata

Esther & Johna Steinhauer

Sunday, December 18: Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Children's Pageant

Jeanne & Karl Krueger

Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight & Holy Communion Service, 7:30 pm  
Nancy & Ed Anderson

**Merry Christmas** Favorite Hymn Sunday



## Chapel News

### The Friendship Circle Christmas Meeting

Tuesday, December 20th, at 5:30 pm

with 6:00 pm Dinner at

The Home of Carolyn Wolfe

4905 S. Ashford (881-3935)

GO SOUTH ON NATIONAL PAST  
REPUBLIC ROAD. TURN RIGHT  
ON LAKEWOOD TO ASHFORD.  
HOUSE IS ON THE SW CORNER OF  
ASHFORD.



### Recycle Your Toner Cartridges

The Board of Service Ministries is still accepting inkjet cartridges to recycle. There is a designated basket for them in the Narthex. Thank you for all donations and the BOSM wishes to thank all who have donated cartridges in the past.

### You say Goodbye and I say Hello

Pastor Stephan's Farewell party was held on November 18th at the home of Dennis and Cynthia Gromer . It was wonderful party and many of you turned out to bid Pastor Stephan a fond farewell . Thank you to all who helped make the party such a success.

### With Heartfelt Thanks

Thank you to you all for the calls, cards and visits from my St. John's friends. I appreciate each and every one!

Flora Valentine

An extra large "thank you" to everyone who remembered my 90th birthday. I really appreciate the many cards I received. May God bless every one of you.

Rosemary Witt

**The Board of  
Christian  
Education will have  
their annual  
Christmas Party on  
12-10- 2011 at 5:00**

**P.M. at Mike and Eleanor  
Berger's home.**



**Crosslines Toy  
"Store" 2011  
Donate a gift for  
infants, or diapers,  
size1**



*Leave toys as  
purchased in manufacturers'  
packaging with the price tag intact.*

*Cash donations for toys are also accepted*

**See Judith Bartell if you have questions.**

**Toys are due on or before  
December 11**

**Bring hope & smiles to local little ones**

**Please mark Your calendar  
The 2012 Annual Meeting  
Date is January 15,2012**

**Messenger Articles are due by Dec. 20th**

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2011

	2010	2010	2011	2011	2011
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
MONTH	INCOME	EXPENSES	INCOME	EXPENSES	EXPENSES
January	\$11,542.07	\$15,118.43	\$13,379.19	\$11,665.88	\$12,703.99
February	\$12,173.28	\$12,995.21	\$11,593.82	\$8,690.71	\$10,302.04
March	\$10,102.13	\$13,221.46	\$11,714.84	\$10,598.56	\$11,194.50
April	\$8,999.18	\$13,287.33	\$12,913.91	\$11,787.94	\$12,054.00
May	\$12,792.05	\$12,406.72	\$12,359.52	\$9,327.38	\$10,040.99
June	\$8,793.29	\$12,779.75	\$7,124.69	\$11,278.04	\$11,684.84
July	\$9,994.52	\$12,398.81	\$11,420.26	\$9,573.43	\$12,249.99
August	\$13,907.77	\$10,157.08	\$8,749.71	\$10,190.40	\$10,463.04
September	\$10,095.71	\$11,579.50	\$9,054.15	\$11,606.59	\$11,355.50
October	\$11,035.66	\$12,001.42	\$12,946.45	\$11,721.94	\$13,478.99
November	\$13,723.82	\$11,403.51			\$10,463.04
December	\$13,125.51	\$12,256.29			\$11,355.50
YTD Totals	\$136,284.99	\$149,605.51	\$111,256.54	\$106,440.87	\$137,346.42

10/31/2011

Please remember to bring your pledged giving up-to-date. Thank you.

Money Market \$12,511.90  
 Petty Cash \$115.00  
 Regular Checking \$1176.94  
  
 TOTAL CASH \$13,803.84

A review of the budget vs. actual may be obtained from the church office, if desired.

**IT'S TIME FOR *POINSETTIAS***

A donation of everlasting, permanent poinsettias has been made to our Chapel. In addition to remaining perfectly lovely through the Christmas season, these already purchased poinsettias enable **100% of your donation** to go towards feeding families via Friendship Circle's Food Pantry/Crosslines in this year of tremendous need.



- 1) Fill out the form below.
- 2) Include your check for the desired amount made out to Friendship Circle, noting "Crosslines" on the memo line.
- 3) Prior to **Sunday, December 11**, turn in your check and completed form in an envelope clearly marked POINSETTIAS to the Chapel Office.

***And we would love to have your independently purchased live poinsettias beautify our altar. Just remember to make a donation to the Poinsettia Fund, too!***

**P O I N S E T T I A      D O N A T I O N      F O R M**

**Please Print**

Donor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle one:**

Given in Memory Of \_\_\_\_\_

Given in Honor Of \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for caring*

**OCTOBER: PROGRAMS & MEETINGS**

- 1st Board of Service Ministries Prayer Group 9-10am**
- 3rd Bread for the World** at National Ave. Christian Church @ 9:00 am. Alternative Gift Market & Bake Sale-9-3
- 4th Second Sunday In Advent**  
**Worship Committee** meets after Worship
- 5th Grace & Weight** is Monday at 5:30 pm.  
**Board of Service Ministries** will meet Monday at 6:00 pm.
- 7th Choir Practice @ 7:00 pm.**
- 8th Women’s Guild Annual Covered Dish Luncheon** at 12:00 noon
- 10th Board Of Christian Education Christmas Party** at 5:00 pm at the Berger’s
- 11th 3rd Sunday in Advent– Christmas Cantata**  
**Bring Crosslines donations today.**  
**Independent Women** will meet on Sunday at 1:00 pm. at the Tower Club
- 13th Crosslines Fish Day.**  
**Men’s Brotherhood** meets Tuesday at 8 am.  
**Grace & Weight** meets Tuesday at 5:30 pm.  
**Council** meets Tuesday at 6:30 pm.
- 14th No Choir Practice**
- 15th Day Care Christmas Program** at 6:00 pm
- 17th Children’s Pageant Practice & Christmas Party-**  
practice is 10-12 and the party is 12-1
- 18th 4th Sunday in Advent—Children’s Christmas Pageant** at 10:30 am.
- 19th Grace & Weight** is Monday at 5:30 pm.
- 20th Messenger items** are due today.  
**The Friendship Circle Christmas Party** is at 6:30 pm at Carolyn Wolfe’s
- 21nd No Choir Practice**
- 22nd First day Of Winter**
- 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - @ 7:30 pm**
- 25th Christmas Day Favorite Hymn Sing** at 10:30 am
- 26th No Grace & Weight**
- 28th Choir Practice @ 7:00 pm.**
- 31st New Year’s Eve**

**MEMBER-SHIP DIRECTORY UPDATES...**  
*Membership Directories are available in the office. Inform Beth of errors, changes and updates.*  
**THANK YOU!**

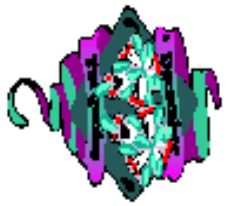
**New Prayer Group on 12-1-2011. 9-10 A.M. All Are Invited. Sponsored by the Board of Service Ministries**

**Christmas Caroling TBA**

**The Christmas Cantata is December 11 at 10:30 A.M.**

**“The Littlest Christmas Tree”**  
**A pageant performed by the children**  
**December 18 at 10:30 A.M.**

**The Next MESSENGER Deadline is... December 20th, Thank you!**



# December 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 2nd Sunday in Advent- Communion Worship Committee Mtg. after worship @ 1:00P.M.	5 G &W 5:30 P.M.	6	7 Choir 7:00 P.M.	8 BOSM Prayer Group 9-10:00 A.M. 8 Women's Guild Covered Dish Luncheon 12:00P.M.	9	10 Board of Christian Education Christmas Party 5:00 P.M.
11 3rd Sunday in Advent & Christmas Cantata 10:30 A.M. Independent Women Bring Crosslines donations	12	13 Fish Day Brotherhood 8:00 PM G &W 5:30 P.M. Council 6:30 P.M.	14 No Choir Rehearsal	15 Day Care Christmas Program 6:00P.M.	16	17 Children's Christmas Party & Pageant Practice 10-12 Practice 12-1 Party
18 4th Sunday in Advent- Children's Christmas Pageant 10:30 A.M.	19 G &W 5:30 P.M.	20 Messenger Items Due Today Friendship Circle Christmas Party 6:00P.M.	21 No Choir Rehearsal	22 First day of Winter	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:30 P.M.
25 Christmas Day Favorite Hymn Sing 10:30 A.M.	26 No Grace & Weight Mtg.	27	28 Choir 7:00 P.M.	29	30	31 New Year's Eve



St. John's Chapel  
United Church of Christ  
4344 South Fremont Avenue  
Springfield, MO 65804-7306

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Return Service Requested  
October 2011

**Merry  
Christmas  
and  
Happy  
New Year**



December