



# THE MESSENGER

## Pastoral Reflections

January 2011  
Volume 64  
Number 25

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

4344 S. Fremont  
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Sunday School -  
9:15 AM

Worship - 10:30 AM

Pastor  
Rev. Becky Hebert

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  
Louise Eggleston

**Our Mission Statement:**

How was your Advent? Did you spend some time in imaginative reflection to prepare yourself for the arrival of Christmas? Was it helpful in allowing you to bear witness to the miracle of Emmanuel—God with us? My hope is that you all enjoyed the most blessed of Christmases noticing what God is up to in your life.

Even with two deaths in our church family, I felt God's presence. Christmas is a hard time to lose someone dear to you, for every future Christmas will most likely carry with it some grief.

Yet, it is often in grief and even in death that God is most active in our lives. After all, the One who is the Light dwells among us to bring wholeness to a broken world.

On the Wednesday morning that Earl Reed died, I had asked in morning prayer, if Earl could not get better that God would not let him continue to linger. Fifteen minutes later, in the car on my way to the church, Beth called to let me know that Earl had died. I worried a little that maybe I had overstepped my bounds to pray such a thing. When I got to Earl and Irene's home, I whispered in Irene's ear what I had prayed. She said, "Thanks Pastor Becky, I was praying the same thing." And so we thanked God for hearing us.

And as Matt Gromer tells us, it was in the grief that the heavens opened up for him this Christmas. This is the message he posted on *Facebook*:

As the Christmas holiday grows closer, I have to admit being away from my family has gotten harder and harder to bear each day. This morning I was at a very low point. As a soldier and a sergeant in the United States Army, I do not have the luxury of being able to wear my heart on my sleeve. Today was a true test. The unit was released due to bad weather and I went to my room in the barracks thinking I should just try to sleep the day away. I sat silently and prayed for grace and strength to forge on through my aching heart. As I changed out of my uniform, a thought came to me that I should go check the mail room. I was told I may have a card coming soon from my family. I trudged through the snow to the other side of post to the community mail room and slowly entered the combination to my mailbox. Nothing. As I sighed and started to shut the little door, a card and a yellow ticket were placed in my box from the other side. Immediately, like a kick to the chest, I felt short of breath. I had received a Christmas card from my dear Aunt Liz Jordan, and a care package from you, my incredible church family. When I returned to the room I opened the box and opened the beautiful Bible with my name embossed on the cover. It fell open to Proverbs and at first glance to 16:9 "in your heart you plan your life. But the Lord decides where your steps take you." I haven't felt his presence this close to me in a while. Thank you so very much for lifting me up. And thank you, Lord for my wonderful St. John's family. Merry Christmas,

In the midst of grief and joy this Christmas, God has felt very close for me too Matt. On December 15th my second grandson was born and my first's adoption will be final in about a month. I will be carrying around a picture of my own Madonna and Child this Christmas.

May Your New Year be filled with God's presence,

Pastor Becky

## COUNCIL MINUTES

**DECEMBER 13, 2011**

No Council minutes were submitted.  
The next meeting will be 01-10-12

### Board of Service Ministries

**December, 2011**

The Board of Service Ministries did not meet in December. Their next meeting will be on January 9th, at 6:00 P.M. at Zio's Italian Kitchen. 1249 E. Kingsley, 65804

### Board of Christian Education

**December, 2011**

The Board of Christian Education did not meet in December. They held their annual Christmas party on December 10th.

### FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

**December 20, 2011**

A Christmas dinner party was held Tuesday, December 20, at the home of Carolyn Wolfe with twenty-one members and two guests present. We enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by hostesses Carolyn Wolfe, Eleanor Berger, Shirley Datema and Jeanne Kruger. Secret pal gifts were exchanged and new secret pals drawn for 2012. A big thanks to our hostesses for a wonderful evening of good food and fellowship.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 17, and will be dinner at a restaurant to be determined.

Jan Rund,  
Secretary

## WOMEN'S GUILD

**December 8, 2011**

The Women's Guild met Dec. 8 at noon for their Christmas lunch with 15 in attendance. A delicious carry-in meal was enjoyed. A memorial will be given in memory of Virginia Shean. The prayer shawl was presented to Virginia Steury. Alice Shoemaker gave a humorous Christmas reading. Hostesses were Lois Rahmoeller & Esther Steinhauer. There will be no January meeting.



Meets from 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. on the first Thursday of the month. All are invited  
This month the meeting will be 01-05-12

Meets at  
12:00 on  
January  
18th, 2012.

All are  
invited.



Senior  
& Retirees  
**Luncheon**

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**The Next MESSENGER Deadline  
is January 20, 2012**

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A memorial contribution has been given to the Glory of God in loving memory of

**Virginia Shean**

By

The Women's Guild	The Endowment Fund
Rosemary Witt.	The Endowment Fund

A memorial contribution has been given to the Glory of God in loving memory of

**Earl Reed**

By

In Memory	Harry Klender
In Memory	The NARFE Chapter 11
In Memory	Denise Moyse

**Our condolences go out to the families and friends of these dearly departed people.  
They will be missed**



# January

## Birthdays

- |                              |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Margaret Dodge             | 13 Shanna Eiklenborg |
| 2 <b>Patricia Barnes, 87</b> | Alexis Peacher       |
| 3 Donna Harper               | 18 Judy Wood         |
| 4 Dennis Gromer              | 19 Suzanne Grammer   |
| Jack Rowett                  | Sarah Summers        |
| 5 Shari Hamm                 | 21 Hayley Zay        |
| Jeanne Kruger                | 22 Allison Jo Dodge  |
| 7 <b>Perdy Scafe, 82</b>     | 23 Jerry Graham      |
| Ralph Siccama                | 24 Mandy Moeller     |
| 9 Ida Barry                  | 26 Connor Bartell    |
| Sam Bartell                  | Tim Farley           |
| 10 Jamie Gromer              | Peggy Crable         |
| 11 Sammy Mayhall             | 27 Jason Kruse       |
| 12 Kinsley Graham            | 31 Eleanor Berger    |
| 13 Sharon Livingston         |                      |

## CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING, SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

*The meeting agenda and all reports are due in the office (via disk or email) on Monday, January 9th*



On our December 13th Crosslines Day, groceries and milk were given to **78 families** for a total of **188 people.**

Please bring food items by **Sunday, January 8th** as our next Crosslines Day is **January 10th.** In addition to food donations by church members, the amount spent from our pantry fund for groceries and milk was \$302.65. Thank you for food and monetary donations in place of poinsettias. A special thanks to Kids First Preschool for their donations as their November service project.



**Thank you to the Congregation of our Chapel.**

Thanks to all who supported Crosslines, Eden Seminary, Joplin, Bread for the World, Any UCC outreaches, and for all who supported the outreaches and the running of the Chapel. We could not do it without your generosity.

We appreciate all who volunteered. From mowers, children's helpers, cleaners, committees, liturgists, and any other helpers, we thank you. Without those willing to do those behind the scenes jobs, our Chapel would not run as smoothly.

May our 2012 be even more blessed than 2011. Happy New Year!

## Anniversaries

- 1 Ken & Sandy Datema
- 3 Marcus & Carol Wolfe
- 23 Nathan & Amy Brunner
- 25 Richard & Susan Gelner, 43 years**



Sunday, January 1

Second Sunday after Christmas  
Liz Stafford Preaching

Sunday, January 9

Epiphany Sunday

Sunday, January 15

Annual Meeting after Worship

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

Sunday, January 23

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dr. John White Preaching— Gideons

Sunday, January 29

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Installation of Newly Elected Officers



SERVICES THIS MONTH



The church will be opened in the month of January by:  
**ELAINE TEBBENKAMP**

**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	\$10,612.10	\$10,213.52	\$10,463.04
December	\$13,125.51	\$12,256.29			\$11,355.50
YTD Totals	\$136,284.99	\$149,605.51	\$121,868.64	\$116,654.39	\$137,346.42

	11/30/2011
Money Market	\$15,114.00
Regular Checking	\$836.20
Petty Cash	\$115.00
<b>TOTAL CASH</b>	<b>\$16,065.20</b>

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

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

**Christmas Remembrance Poinsettias 2011**

All proceeds donated to Crosslines

- Kyle, Carrie, & Grant Aho, and Carolyn Wolfe in memory of Ed & Anita Hoffman and Kirk Wolfe
- Corneil & Shirley Datema in memory of Parents and loved ones
- Steve and Margaret Dodge in memory of Steve's mother, Barbara Brook
- Charles & Jane Dunham memory of our parents
- Sharon Haislip in memory My Parents Merle & Mildred Kearney
- Lois Rahmoeller & Family in memory of Rev. Norman Rahmoeller
- Marsha Schatz by his daughters in memory of Gerald Willoughby
- Ken & Loy Swanson in honor of our children



# JANUARY PROGRAMS & MEETINGS

- 1st HAPPY NEW YEAR~
- 2nd Grace & Weight is Monday at 5:30 pm.
- 4th Choir practice at 7:00 pm.
- 5th BOSM Prayer Group from 9-10:00 am at the Chapel. All are invited
- 8th Epiphany  
Bring Crosslines food donations today.  
Independent Women meet at 1:00pm.  
Gay & Lesbians Group at 6:00 pm. Led by Jerry Cook
- 9th All Annual Report Documents are due today.  
Board of Service Ministries will meet Monday at 6:00 pm at Zio's.
- 10th The Brotherhood meets at 8:00am.  
Fish Day  
Grace & Weight is Tuesday at 5:30 pm.  
Council meets Tuesday at 6:30 pm.
- 11th Choir practice at 7:00 pm.
- 15th Congregational Annual Meeting following worship.
- 16th Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Grace & Weight is Monday at 5:30 pm.
- 17th Friendship Circle Dinner Out at 7:00 pm.
- 18th Seniors & Retirees meet at 12 noon  
Endowment Committee meeting at 6:30pm.  
Choir practice at 7:00 pm.
- 20th Messenger items are due today.
- 22nd Dr. John White Preaching & Gideons are here.
- 23rd Grace & Weight is Monday at 5:30 pm.
- 24th Board Of Christian Education meets at 6:00 pm
- 25th Ozarks Cluster Meeting at 10:00 am.
- 28th Bread for the World at the Library Center, 9:00 am.
- 29th Installation of Officers  
Election of Council Officers following Worship today
- 30th Grace & Weight is Monday at 5:30 pm.



## 2011 COOKBOOK UPDATES...

*...are available in the Narthex. THANK YOU!*

**Don't Forget to recycle your ink cartridges with the Board of Service Ministries.**

**There is no Women's Guild Meeting In January**

**Mark Your Calendars  
for the 2012 Sausage  
Supper  
on  
February 20,2012**

## Thank you everyone...

For your Christmas cards and gifts. The best gift of all is getting to know you, the congregation here at St. John's Chapel.

**Beth Shane-Clark**



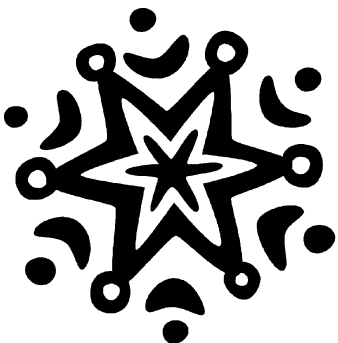
# January 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Happy New Year Liz Stafford in the pulpit</p>	<p>2 Grace &amp; Weight at 5:30 pm.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Choir at 7:00 pm</p>	<p>5 BOSM Prayer Group 9-10:00 am.</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Epiphany Sunday, Incl. Women at 1:00pm, Bring Crosslines Donations, Gay &amp; Lesbian Group @ 6pm</p>	<p>9 All Annual Report Documents are due today.  Board of Service Ministries will meet at 6:00 pm. At</p>	<p>10 Fish Day Brotherhood at 8:00 am Grace &amp; Weight at 5:30 pm. Council at 6:30 pm</p>	<p>11 Choir at 7:00 pm</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Annual Meeting after Worship</p>	<p>16 Grace &amp; Weight at 5:30 pm.</p>	<p>17 Friendship Circle Dinner out at 7:00pm.</p>	<p>18 Sr. &amp; Retirees Lunch at 12:00 Endowment Committee at 6:30 pm Choir at 7:00 pm</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Messenger Items Due</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Dr Dave Smith in pulpit &amp; Gideons</p>	<p>23 Grace &amp; Weight at 5:30 pm.</p>	<p>24 Board of Christian Education meets at 6:30 pm.</p>	<p>25 Ozark Cluster at 10:00 am. Choir at 7:00 pm</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Bread for the World at The Library Center at 9:00 am.</p>
<p>29 Newly Elected Officers Installed. Council meets after worship.</p>	<p>30 Grace &amp; Weight at 5:30 pm.</p>	<p>31</p>				

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

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U.S. Postage Paid  
Springfield, MO.  
Permit No. 1558



  
**January**

**Epiphany Sunday, January 8**  
Congregational Annual Meeting, January 15  
Installation of Officers, January 29