



A monthly publication of Messiah Lutheran Church • ELCA • Knoxville • TN ... Volume 56 ... January 2012

At Messiah, we...

CARE

We believe that **ca**ring for one another during the milestones of life is integral in forming and sustaining this faith community. We welcome newcomers into this community as if they have been here all their lives.

WORSHIP

We believe **worshipping** God is central to what we do. We lift up traditional Lutheran liturgy as the best way for this community to worship.



DISCIPLE

We believe **discipleship** and the faith formation of all generations is central to our purpose as a congregation and we hold in very high regard the development of faithful children, youth, adults, and families.

SERVE

We believe we should intentionally reach out to our local and global community to do God's work in the world. We do this through direct **service** by members, by giving our resources to those less fortunate, and by our membership in the ELCA.

Interested in letting your light shine?

Join us for ...

All Committee Night

Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2012 - 6:00 PM

Dinner and Meeting



A City on a Hill

by Pastor Eric Murray

¹⁴“You are the light of the world.

A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

- Matthew 5:14-16

The author Robert Fulghum passed on a story he once heard from one of his teachers. His teacher said, ‘When I was a small child, during the war, we were very poor and we lived in a remote village. One day, on the road, I found several broken pieces of a mirror from a wrecked German motorcycle...I kept only the largest piece. And by scratching it on a stone, I made it round. I began to play with it as a toy and became fascinated by the fact that I could reflect light into dark places where the sun would not shine – in deep holes and crevices and dark closets. It became a game for me to get light into the most inaccessible places I could find.’

This teacher’s story is a wonderful metaphor for the calling of Jesus’ disciples. 2,000 years ago, Jesus taught his disciples that they were “the light of the world.” Just like Jesus’ original disciples we too are called to let our light shine, reflecting Christ’s light into the dark places. Thanks to you and to faithful & visionary members over the past 57 years, Messiah has answered Jesus call and been that “light of the world. A city built on a hill.”

Now and on into the future, thanks to your overwhelming and enthusiastic support for our strategic plan, I believe Messiah will continue in even more significant and effective ways to share Christ’s light with the world. Moving forward our efforts will be better coordinated as we place a renewed emphasis on the four core ministries of worship, disciple, care, and serve. And with new staffing, including a parish nurse, minister of faith formation, additional musician, and associate pastor, Messiah will become even more effective in its ability to minister to, not just our current members, but the surrounding community as well. Today and for the foreseeable future, as we continue to combine our resources of time, talent and treasure, Messiah will faithfully answer Christ’s call. Thanks to your vision and sense of call, we ARE “the light of the world. A city built on a hill...”

In Christ,
Pastor Eric



Our mission as a congregation is...

**To gather,
nourish
and send disciples
to bless and love the world.**

**God’s work. Our hands.
And we need ALL HANDS on deck!**

Have you been praying for Messiah?

2012 proves to be action packed! Messiah is truly blessed! And we are blessed to be a blessing!

Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, January 11th**. We will have “All Committee Night” at **6:00**, on the 11th. A light supper will be provided followed by devotions and time to meet together to set our path, focused forward, on the year ahead.

There is a lot to do and we need everyone on board! All committee leaders and committee members plan to be here.

Also, if you are not already but would like to be involved in a ministry opportunity, please gather with us on Wednesday, January 11th. Maybe you don’t currently serve on a committee, but possibly filled out a Time and Talent sheet or you would like to help out from time to time. Maybe you already assist by stuffing envelopes, stuffing bags with food for FISH, stuffing us with food at Wednesday night meals, or even if what you can do is make phone calls. What ever it is, plan to be here.

Again, we need everyone to assist in our new ministry plan and this proves to be an excellent time to come out and join in.

Not sure about coming...review the Strategic Plan and find the areas that elicit responses such as “that is very important” or “I could help with that” THEN come and join us.

Messiah is truly blessed and we are blessed to be a blessing! Let’s embrace...

God’s work. Our hands.

Sincerely,

Georgia Phillippi
2012 Council President
and

Nikki Frye
2012 Council Vice President

the Messiah Messenger

Deadline is the 15th of each month

Your contributions and suggestions are welcomed.
The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

Messenger Staff

Editor: Kristin Kennedy
Member News: Lois Sherman

Proofreader: Lois Sherman

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday — 8:30 AM–5:00 PM
Friday hours vary.



WORSHIP

We believe worshipping God is central to what we do. We lift up traditional Lutheran liturgy as the best way for this community to worship.



Sanctuary: A portion of a building set apart for holy worship; refuge

Joan McGinnis,
Director of Music

I've needed the calmness of our sanctuary during the Advent season this year. Coming into such a quiet space has been good for my body, mind and soul. It's been good to just sit and let God tell me what I am

to do to get ready for the busyness of Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day worship services. Practicing, planning, ordering music, organizing rehearsals, moving bells, borrowing risers...all that "stuff" begins to pile up until my mind is a-whirl. I want...I need that time and place of refuge to be able to do the seasonal tasks necessary for a beautiful Christmas season.

I am blessed by the words of an anthem the choir sang on Christmas Eve written by Ruth Schram and Paul Baertschi.

*How is it, Lord, we can feel so alone
when we're standing in the pressing crowd?*

*And, why is it, Lord, we feel overwhelmed
by the sights and sounds all around?*

*Take us back to the place where we knew Your grace;
help us once again to see that the manger holds the answer:*

*Jesus came to bring us peace.
Peace, peace, peace, Jesus is our Christmas peace.*

*Though tumult rages all around,
the Savior's peace can still be found.*

Peace, peace, peace, Jesus is our Christmas peace.

*Oh, lead us, Lord, to the stable again,
give us respite from the pressing crowd,*

*A moment in time when we're undisturbed
by the sights and sounds all around.*

*Take us back to the place where we knew Your grace;
help us once again to see that the manger holds the answer:*

*Jesus came to bring us peace.
Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Jesus is our Prince of Peace.*

Dear God, thank you for giving us Jesus to be our Prince of Peace... to be our sanctuary. Glory to God in the Highest!

Blessings,

Worship Assistants

Worship Assistants, please check the Worship Assistant Scheduled for January through March posted online at <http://www.messiah-knoxville.org/worship-assistants-schedule>.

Thank you for your service.

If you find that you cannot serve on your scheduled day, please make arrangements for a substitute and then notify Kristin in the church office at office@messiahknoxville.org.

If you do not currently serve in one of these positions, but would like to or would like to receive more information about serving in one or more of these capacities, please email Kristin in the church office at office@messiahknoxville.org.

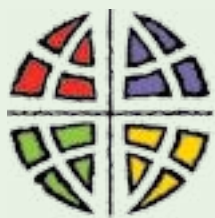
Tuesday Morning Prayer

Need a great way to start your day?
Need a mid-week break and re-fresher?

Join us Tuesday mornings at 7:00 AM
for a brief service of morning prayer.

From 7:00-7:30 AM we join in the liturgy of matins, listening to scripture and then offering intercessory prayer. Join us every Tuesday morning in the Old Chapel Narthex.





DISCIPLE

We believe **discipleship** and the faith formation of all generations is central to our purpose as a congregation and we hold in very high regard the development of faithful children, youth, adults, and families.

CHILDREN & YOUTH FAITH FORMATION



December was a busy month at Messiah.

We had six children at the Parent's Afternoon Out. Thank you to the youth that helped with this activity: Cameron Driskill (provided the yummy mac-n-cheese for the dinner,) Rylie Miller, Lexi Martin, Kelsey West, Anders Pearson, Leslie Byrd and Anna Murray. Thanks to Miss Nikki Frye and Miss Angela Kronau for being our adult supervisors.

As you can see from the photo above we had many voices to fill the halls at Brakebill Nursing Home on December 11, 2011. Thank you to the children, parents and drivers that help bring the joy of the Advent/Christmas season to the residents.

Thank you to all the children that brought their change for the Birthday Party for Jesus. Between the Parent's Afternoon Out and Birthday Party for Jesus over \$150.00 was raised for the El Año del Baño project!!

Christmas Eve was a wonderful celebration. Thank you to all the wonderful children that served in the live nativity scene! (See photo above right.) What a wonderful service!

Sunday School Teachers for 2012

Preschool through first grade: Sue Tobey

2nd through fifth grade: Mary Alice Vowell

Middle and High school (combined): Alicia Pearson



January Events:

January 1 - No Sunday School and Youth

January 8 - Learning (Dinner will be provided by the Congregational Care Committee)

January 15 - Ice Skating (3:30-5:30 PM) Youth will be dropped off and picked up at the Ice Chalet, 100 Lebanon Street (just off the 4600 block of Kingston Pike.) Check for coupon in school coupon book. Youth will need to bring \$9.00 for admission and skate rental; additional \$\$ for snacks. Adult leader: Tom Pearson.

January 22 - Learning - (Dinner provided by the West family)

January 29 - MS Pack College Care Packages
HS 5:00-8:30 PM - Serve, eat and worship at Tyson House.

Youth who are attending the Lutheridge Faith Alive Holy Communion Retreat on February 3-5, please check email for important information.

National Youth Gathering

Save the date! April 21 at 5:30 PM - Dinner and Silent Auction Fundraiser for National Youth Gathering in July of 2012. Details are coming soon!

Children & Youth Faith Formation Meeting

The next Children & Youth Faith Formation committee meeting is on Messiah All-Committee Night, Wednesday, January 11 beginning with dinner at 6:00 PM.



ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Join us each Sunday morning at 9:45 AM in the fellowship hall for study and discussion.

- **Jan. 8 - Feb. 5 - Hearing the Cries:
Faith and Criminal Justice**

Hearing the Cries: Faith and Criminal Justice

Beginning January 8, there will be a 5 week adult Sunday School class which examines the efforts of the ELCA to draft a Social Statement on Criminal Justice. The first class looks at those affected by crime- the victims, the defendants, families and communities harmed by crime and those who work in the criminal justice system. Law enforcement is the second topic. The judicial system and the players within the system are discussed in the third class. The fourth class considers corrections, the costs of prison, the workers in prisons, and juvenile corrections. The last session examines life after crime for the victims, the offenders and the community. This should be a very interesting, thought provoking series. If you are interested in telling your story about being a victim, being an offender, knowing an offender, working with those who are trying to re-enter society, or if you have worked in law enforcement, get in touch with Beth Ford at 470-9640 or ebford@aol.com.

Book Group Dates and Books for 2012

Beth Ford, Coordinator

Come join the Messiah Book Group. In 2012, the group will meet on January 2, March 5, May 7, July 2, Sept. 17, and Nov. 5. Books have been chosen and will, hopefully, appeal to many. There are no rules. You can come and join

the discussion even if you have not read the book. Following is the list of books, most of which can be found at the Knox County Library, the church library or borrowed from someone in the group:



Jan. 2 - *Palestine: Peace not Apartheid* by Jimmy Carter. In this book, President Carter shares his intimate knowledge of the history of the Middle East and his personal experiences of the principal actors, and he addresses sensitive political issues many British and American officials shy from. Discussion led by Roy Biberdorf.

March 5: *Joshua, A Parable for Today* by Joseph Girzone. When Joshua moves to a small cabin on the edge of town, the local people are mystified by his presence. A quiet and simple man, Joshua appears to seek nothing for himself. He supports himself by working as a carpenter. He charges very little for his services, yet his craftsmanship is exquisite. The statue of Moses that he carves for the local synagogue prompts amazement as well as consternation. Discussion led by Valerie Biberdorf.

May 7: *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson. Greg Mortenson, the son of Lutheran missionaries, wrote about his efforts to build schools for girls in Pakistan. *60 Minutes* aired a program that questioned some of the story. Discussion led by Connie Cole.

July 2: *Love Wins* by Rob Bell. How do we reconcile God's love and God's judgment? Do some people really go to heaven and others go to hell? Is that acceptable? Led by Georgia Phillippi.

Sept. 17: *Blue Like Jazz* by Donald Miller. This book's cover says that it is about nonreligious thoughts on Christian spirituality. Led by Beth Ford.

Nov. 5: *Dakota, A Spiritual Geography* by Kathleen Norris. "An evocation of the Great Plains and its influence on the spirit, this book describes the harsh, desolate, yet sublime landscape that embodies the contradictions of American life." Mike Driskill will lead the discussion.

Messiah's Bread for the Day in 2012

by Pastor Eric Murray

What would it look like if we as the community of faith called Messiah Lutheran Church followed the same daily devotional practice? How might our community of faith be strengthened if we were all seeking to be attentive to the same Word?



Bread for the Day is a daily-use devotional resource filled with rich treasures, including:

- A brief scripture reading (NRSV texts) for each day following the daily lectionary developed by the Consultation on Common Texts.
- A throughout prayer and hymn for each day
- Brief yet helpful introductions to the seasons
- Table graces/meal prayers for the holidays and seasons
- Household blessings for special times throughout the year.
- Monthly pages for recording prayer requests
- Notes on festivals and commemorations
- Simplified forms for morning and evening prayer
- Waking prayers and bedtime prayers, including prayers with children.

Look for *Bread for the Day* for sale in the narthex or fellowship hall for \$8.00 per copy. Purchase a copy and then join me in making use of *Bread for the Day* for personal, household, or group devotions 2012.



Winter Session of Lay School of Theology at Messiah

By Lynn White

The winter session of the Lay School of Theology at Messiah will commence Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall. We will view the DVD series with Marcus J. Borg on his book *The Heart of Christianity*.

The course will run through Feb. 15. We will then take a break for Lent and begin our spring session the Wednesday following Easter Sunday where we will once again enjoy a course straight from Luther Seminary via webcast.

This winter class promises to be very exciting. Marcus J. Borg is Hundere Distinguished Professor of Religion and Culture at Oregon State University and author of the bestselling books *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*, *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time*, *The God We Never Knew*, and coauthor with N. T. Wright of *The Meaning of Jesus*. Brueggemann said about the book we will be studying, "A winsome, accessible, pastoral offering....Borg provides a way for an important, positive, and serious rethinking of the gospel."

There will be a \$5.00 registration charge, payable the night we begin the course on Jan. 18. Please register by e-mailing Lynn White at white_29456@comcast.net or calling her at 693-6275.



Third Thursday Theology Pub Thursday, January 19 7:00 PM

Messiah's young adults and their friends are invited to join Pastor Eric for a time of theological conversation on Jan. 19 at 7:00 PM at a location to be announced. Watch for the location in upcoming bulletin announcements.

Invite a friend and join us as we engage in a modern day theological table talk about faith, life, church and society.



Invitation to Lent

A Faith Formation Event

February 4, 2012, 9:30AM - 2:30PM

Messiah Lutheran Church, Knoxville, Tennessee

*"I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent--
self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting,
sacrificial giving and works of love--
strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament.*

Seeking to experience a holy Lent?

This gathering is for all people who seek to:

- ❖ learn more about the Christian season of Lent
- ❖ examine Lent's rich scriptural images
- ❖ explore the themes found in Lenten worship
- ❖ consider the call to works of love and service
- ❖ prepare to experience a faith deepening Lent within their congregation or family.

Schedule:

9:30-10:00am - *Check-in / Registration*

10:00-10:30am - *Morning Prayer worship*

10:30-10:45am - *Coffee Break*

10:45-11:30am - *Keynote Speaker*

11:30-12:30pm - *Workshop Opportunity #1*

12:30- 1:00pm - *Lunch (provided)*

1:00- 2:00pm - *Workshop Opportunity #2*

2:00- 2:30pm - *Closing Keynote*

Cost: \$15/person, includes program, refreshments and lunch

For more information, visit us on Facebook or at

http://web.me.com/elmurray/Invitation_to_Lent



Hosted by the Knoxville area congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), this gathering is for all people from all denominations or from no denomination. All are welcome, as we seek together, a holy Lent.



Bible Study

Tuesday, Jan. 3 - 10:00 AM

The Bible Study will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 3, at 10:00 AM in the library. The focus of the study is "To Follow and To Serve: The Gospel of Mark." Bring a friend and join the lively group discussions led by Doris Featherston.

Book Study

Tuesday, Jan. 24 - 1:00 PM

The WELCA Book Study will meet on Tuesday, January 24, at 1:00 PM in the library. We will be discussing the book by Francine Rivers, *Sons of Encouragement: Five Stories of Faithful Men Who Changed Eternity*. Contact Mary Ellen Whitson if you have any questions.

Wee Care

Saturday, Jan. 28 - 9:30 AM

Wee Care will meet on Saturday, Jan. 28, at 9:30 AM. Please contact Illy Wood if you would like any details about the group's activities.



Quarterly Meeting

Monday, Jan. 9 - 6:30 PM

The next quarterly meeting will be held Monday, Jan. 9, at 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall. Refreshments will be provided followed by a program and short business

meeting. The program will be by Marcia Davis, columnist with the Knoxville News Sentinel and an expert on birds. She will speak about different bird feeders and bird houses, especially how taking care of birds can have an active effect on the environment and our stewardship of the Earth. This event is open to all members of the church as well as visitors.



Grandmother-Mother-Daughter Luncheon

Saturday, Feb. 11 - 12:00 NOON

The Grandmother/Mother/Daughter banquet will be held at noon on Saturday, Feb. 11. The event will be a luncheon this year. The program will be provided by Judy DiGregorio, an award winning author and speaker. (See her bio below.) Make plans now to bring a friend to this fun-filled time for the women of the church.



About

Judy Lockhart DiGregorio

Judy DiGregorio was recently named a Distinguished Alumni of New Mexico Highlands University. She has written more than 300 columns and essays. She has published in *The Writer*, *Army-Navy Times*, *New Millennium Writings*, the *Chicken Soup* books, and numerous anthologies. She has been a humor columnist for *Anderson County Visions Magazine*,

Senior Living and *EvaMag*. Judy's collection of humor essays, *Life Among the Lilliputians*, was featured at the 2009 Southern Festival of Books in Nashville. She also participated in the 2010 Southern Festival with her second book, *Memories of a Loose Woman*. Celtic Cat Publishing recently released a CD, *Jest Judy*, that features stories from both of her books read by the author. Judy is also a well-known speaker and workshop leader and writes press releases for the Oak Ridge Community Playhouse where she frequently appears on stage. She is also the author of three ten-minute plays.



SERVE

We believe we should intentionally reach out to our local and global community to do God's work in the world. We do this through direct **service** by members, by giving our resources to those less fortunate, and by our membership in the ELCA.

¿Puedo Ayudarle?

You don't need to know what it means to ask someone if you can help. Anyone can do it, even if you don't speak the same language.



Want to try?

The Southeastern Synod is planning a February 2012 trip to Guatemala City to help the leaders and women of our companion synod, Iglesia Luterana Augustina de Guatemala (ILAG), during their annual Leadership Conference. We will also be spending several days providing labor for all sorts of repairs and upkeep for the Lutheran Center. An additional highlight (just for fun) will be an overnight trip to the City of Antigua, designated by the United Nations as one of the top 100 sights to visit in the world.

For information contact Pastor Bob Bear at kbbear@comcast.net.

Come along and learn that "¿Puedo ayudarle?" simply means "May I help you?"

A question any of us can ask.



Boy Scout Troop 20
requests the honor of your presence at an
Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony
presenting

Cameron B. Driskill

to be held on

Sunday, January 8th, 2012
at two o'clock in the afternoon

Messiah Lutheran Church
6900 Kingston Pike
Knoxville, Tennessee

Reception following ceremony
in the fellowship hall

RSVP 588-4132



CARE

We believe that **caring** for one another during the milestones of life is integral in forming and sustaining this faith community. We welcome newcomers into this community as if they have been here all their lives.



Thank you notes from our members and friends...

Thank you to all of the members of Messiah for the care and compassion you showed us while we were in town for our mother, Mary White's, funeral. We take great comfort in knowing that our dad has a "family" at Messiah to help him through these difficult times. We wish all of you a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,
The Whites



We would like to thank all our friends who so regularly visit us, also those who bring us communion, and those who send cards of encouragement and pray for us. May the Lord bless you and keep you safe in this New Year.

Wayne and Illy Wood



Dear Family of Messiah,

How blessed I am to have the love, care and support of the wonderful family of Messiah Lutheran Church. I have always felt those things but never more than after the passing of my father on Nov. 30. I was overwhelmed by your offers of help, your loving cards, and your many words of sympathy and concern—and for the understanding of my inefficiencies during this already stressful time of year.

My dad held his ticket in hand for several days before his passing and was anxious to start his most excellent heavenly adventure. I know that there was great rejoicing in heaven upon his arrival. He was a kind, generous, adventuresome and fun guy and I will miss him greatly, but he was ready to go and knew with great confidence that he was heaven-bound. What comfort that brings. I rest assured that we will one day be reunited in heaven.

In the meantime, I daily live amongst what must be one of the most caring, loving, and supportive earthly families that could possibly exist. Thank you to each of you who daily bring little pieces of heaven my way.

Peace, and all that is good!
Kristin Kennedy

To Pastor Eric and staff, and members of the Messiah congregation -

I owe a great debt of gratitude for the many kindnesses shown Mim and me through the years....when I recall all the visits, calls, cards, rides, food, best wishes and prayers, it rivals the national debt. And I have learned much from Pastor Eric's preaching and teaching. As I leave "best weather" Knoxville for the rigors of Minnesota, I will always remember the bonds of Christian friendship we enjoyed here at Messiah. God bless us all in this new year.

Bernard Lorimer



A Thank-You from Fellowship Committee

Many thanks to all of you who helped with the Soup Suppers during Advent. We enjoyed delicious soups, desserts and delightful fellowship with one another.

During Lent, we will again have the Soup Supper and we invite you to join us.



Dearest Ladies of Messiah,

It was such a sad occasion for us to attend Lois' funeral, but it was made so special for us by seeing so many of you again and for the lovely reception you so lovingly prepared for us. It gave us a cheerful and warm place to visit with family and friends as we reminisced and remembered Lois.

Thank you for your friendships to us and to Lois and Dad through the years.

Fondly,
Lou Ann (Houser) Thomas



Dear fellow Messiah-ans:

Words fail me.

I cannot adequately express my feelings of humble gratitude to my fellow parishioners for your many loving visits, gifts, cards, thoughts, and prayers during the period of Marjorie last illness and eventual departure from this veil of tears.

Our marriage survived almost 64 years... ...a tribute to her love and willingness to overlook her spouse's imperfections.

In Christ, many thanks,
Bob Michel



A Thank-You from the Decorating Committee

Many thanks to all of you who helped with decorating and UN-decorating our worship space for Christmas. We couldn't have done it without your help. Those serving in this capacity were Ray and Georgia Phillippi, Cindy and Derrick Hatcher, Pastor Eric, Heidi and Anna Murray, Jon, Anne & Cameron Driskill, Meredith and Wendell Liemohn, Libby Helle, Linda Holton, Jason Cole, and Joan McGinnis. There were likely others in the background who quietly added their assistance and we thank them as well.

News and Notes from family and friends...

We invite you to share items of interest and noteworthy news in this column. Submit information to Lois Sherman or send to:

office@messiahknoxville.org

RYAN BECKERS and LAUREN BECKERS were pictured in the "Your News" section of the local paper on November 23. They were dressed in their Halloween costumes and ready for going out to trick or treat.



OWLS (OLDER WISER LUTHERANS) Lunch & a Movie

Thursday, Jan. 19



All Messiah OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans) are most cordially invited to our monthly gathering on Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 12 NOON in the fellowship hall. We will again enjoy a catered luncheon and then view the movie *The Grace Card*.

This promises to be very enjoyable and we certainly hope you will join us. Please R.S.V.P. to Lynn White by telephone at 693-6275 or via e-mail at white_29456@comcast.net.)

Movie Synopsis

Everything can change in an instant ... and take a lifetime to unravel.

When Mac McDonald loses his son in an accident, the ensuing 17 years of bitterness and pain erodes his love for his family and leaves him angry with God ... and just about everyone else.

Mac's rage stonewalls his career in the police department and makes for a combustible situation when he's partnered with Sam Wright, a rising star on the force who happens to be a part-time pastor and a loving family man.

Mac's home life is as frightening as anything he encounters on the streets of Memphis. Money is tight and emotions run high as he constantly argues with his wife and his surviving son Blake, who is hanging with the wrong crowd and in danger of flunking out of school.

Sam Wright also never expected to be a police officer. He has a calling—to be a minister like his Grandpa George. But leading a small, start-up church doesn't always put enough food on the table for a young family, so Sam doubles as a police officer. With his new promotion to Sergeant, Sam starts questioning if his real calling might actually be police work rather than the pastorate.

Can Mac and Sam somehow join forces to help one another when it's impossible for either of them to look past their differences—especially the most obvious one?

Every day, we have the opportunity to rebuild relationships and heal deep wounds by extending and receiving God's grace. Offer THE GRACE CARD ... and never underestimate the power of God's love



CPR & First Aid Training to be offered at Messiah

Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012 - 9:00 AM



Messiah member Burt Wagner, a certified CPR & First Aid instructor, will lead a CPR & First Aid training class for Messiah members, families and friends on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012. The cost is \$25 per participant to cover the price of the materials. It will be a 6 hour class and can accommodate 12 participants. You can reserve your spot in the class by submitting the name and contact information (address, phone and email) for each participant along with the \$25 class fee to Burt Wagner (865/318-0883; burtstr@gmail.com.)





Profiles of Messiah focuses on Rylie Alexis Miller

Pat Kopp, Reporter

Rylie graciously agreed to fill out the Profiles of Messiah bio form and in doing so, she became the youngest member of Messiah to be featured. We are honored!

Rylie, now 14 years old, was born in Madison, Wisconsin, home of the University of Wisconsin, and a state also known for its fine cheeses and dairy products including the life stock. Since she is 14, Rylie is not yet gainfully employed, but she is working at “bugging her parents to let me work at Food City.” But, because permission has not yet been given, Rylie keeps herself busy caring for her pets: five cats, two dogs, two turtles, and one gerbil! I will bet a job at Food City would be a snap after this commitment!

Rylie’s favorite foods include chicken tenders and fries. And her other hobbies besides good food include dance, Tae Kwon Do, art and theater. one can safely assume that Rylie is hardly one who just sits around twiddling her thumbs.

She absolutely fondly remembers attending the Mindless Behavior concert with Kylie Twiddy in Louisville, Kentucky, and she would love to meet this group in person followed by going on a shopping spree with her buddy, Kylie.

Valued possessions? Her phone and her family (and she listed them in that order!)

Her smile and her personality reflect her best assets, but folks from Messiah might be surprised to learn that she is a dancer, and has a third degree black belt. Citing her activities at Messiah, Rylie includes youth activities, working at KARM, going to the 2012 Youth Gathering and finally her Confirmation which took place in May 2011.

People who think they are the most important thing in the world really rile her immensely.

She leaves us with these reminders: Rylie is a dancer, loves animals, attends West High School, and once again mentions Mindless Behavior and her good buddy, Kylie Twiddy. She shares that “I’m nice when I wanna be. I love my family and friends,” and finally admits to being a Facebook addict.

Oh - if all teenagers were this well rounded!! Keep up this very fine growth pattern, Rylie!

Celebrating in January...

Birthday wishes to...

Jan. 2	Daryl Bryan	Jan. 18	Jenny Adams
	Charlie Camp	Jan. 21	Julie Gibson
Jan. 6	Camden Kincaid	Jan. 24	Erin Rust
Jan. 10	Nick McCall	Jan. 25	Roger Miller
	Grayson McCormick		Amanda Pederson
Jan. 12	Kelly Hudson	Jan. 26	Joan McGinnis
Jan. 13	Sandy Trout	Jan. 27	Brennen Pardon
Jan. 14	Carol Miller	Jan. 29	James Wilson
			Kent Solberg
Jan. 15	Kay Shanahan	Jan. 30	Jeff MacCabe
	Curt Martin		
	José Vowell		

Happy anniversary to...

Jan. 10	Mike & Joy Driver (37)
Jan. 14	Juda and Sam Brown (12)
Jan. 19	Curt & Heather Martin (10)
	Illy & Wayne Wood (56)
Jan. 29	Wendell & Meredith Liemohn (51)

Cultural Immersion

Matthew Adams, son of Jenny and Art Adams, will be spending the next ten weeks in Mali. A student of Carleton College in Minnesota, Matthew was chosen by his French professor as one of a small group to take this trimester their classes as cultural immersion. He is staying with a local host family, taking classes (which will be all taught in French,) and will be learning the local language of Bambara. Matthew will have very limited access to the internet, but when he does gain access he intends to add to his WordPress blog. His first post is printed below. You can follow his future posts at <http://mattinmali.wordpress.com/>.

Le Commencement

29 Dec - I'm sitting here in the JFK airport, trying to figure out wordpress, and doing some work I need to have done before I get to Mali (that probably should have been done weeks ago). I have a long layover here, a longer flight to Paris, another layover, and then we'll all finally be in Bamako! To be honest, the fact that I'll be living in Mali for the next ten weeks has not totally hit me yet; I'm just going to try to dive head first into the experience. Still, something tells me it'll be a great one!

I'll post again when I actually have something to say- au revoir!



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS **from meeting of December 13, 2011**

By Doris Featherston, Secretary

Officers elected for the coming year are:

Georgia Phillippi, President

Nikki Frye, Vice President

Rob Shanahan has agreed to continue as Financial Secretary and Doris Featherston will continue as Secretary.

2. Our first meeting of the new year will be January 10 when we will invite all committees to meet with us for an evening meal and joint meeting prior to our Council meeting at 7:30 PM.

Income for November was \$33,577 with expenses of \$35,569 for a negative impact on reserves of \$1,992. Y-T-D contributions are \$381,598 and expenses are \$400,967 for a negative impact on reserves of \$19,369.

4. The Council voted to proceed with the application for the solar project grant and establish a designated reserve fund for the \$11,000 necessary for the application but delay the implementation until we are assured of receiving the funds, at that time look at finances to see if we feel comfortable giving the go ahead.

2012 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

The following elected and appointed members of the 2012 Congregation Council will be installed during worship services on Sunday, Jan. 8.

Georgia Phillippi, President

Nikki Frye, Vice President

Laurie Alsup

Della Cheak

Jason Cole

Mike Driskill

Martha MacCabe

Jack Mundell

Allison Pressley

Anne Tinker

Mary Williamson

Council Appointments

Doris Featherston, Secretary

Steve Hess, Treasurer

Rob Shanahan, Financial Secretary



A report from the Finance Committee

Carol Miller

Finance Committee Chair

Contributions for the month of November were \$33,577 with expenses of \$35,569. Total im-

impact on reserves for the month of November was (\$1,992.) For the year ended November 30, 2011, total contributions were \$381,598 and total expenses were \$400,967, for a negative impact on reserves of (\$19,369.) With 92% of the year elapsed, contributions were 82.4% of the 2011 budget of \$463,000, and expenses were 86.6% of the annual budget.

By comparison, the first eleven months of 2010 resulted in a positive balance of \$11,579 with income of \$417,568 and expenses of \$405,989.

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JANUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>First Sunday of Christmas</i> <i>New Year's Day</i> 10:00 AM ONE WORSHIP SERVICE 5:00 PM Cub Scouts (FH)	2 Pastor's Day Off <i>Student Holiday</i> 4:30 PM Yoga 5:30 PM VdC-Women (L) 6:00 PM GSA Troop 20110 (FH) 6:00 PM VdC Women (Jr Conf); Men (YR) 7:00 PM WELCA General Meeting (FH)	3 <i>Student Holiday</i> 7:00 AM Tuesday Morning Prayer 10:00 AM WELCA Bible Study (L) 5:30 PM SMQ-SP (LL-Conf) 6:00 PM Smoky Mtn Quilters (FH)	4 <i>Student Holiday</i> 7:30 AM Women's VdC (L) 10:30 AM Staff 5:00 PM LIFE Choir (CR) 6:00 PM UN-Decorating	5 <i>Student Holiday</i> 9:30 AM Library 1:00 PM WELCA Book Study (L) 7:00 PM Luther Choir (CR)	6 <i>Epiphany of Our Lord</i> <i>Student Holiday</i> 9:00 AM VdC Reunion Group (L)	7 8:00 AM VdC-Mixed (L)
8 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i> 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School for all ages 11:00 AM Worship 2:00 PM Eagle Scout Award Ceremony for Cameron Driskill (Sanc & FH) 5:30 PM Youth Dinner & Learning Event	9 Pastor's Day Off 4:30 PM Yoga 5:30 PM VdC-Women (L) 6:00 PM VdC Women (Jr Conf); Men (YR) 6:30 PM WELCA General Mtg (FH)	10 FISH DAY 7:00 AM Tuesday Morning Prayer 5:30 PM COMMITTEE: Finance (L) 6:00 PM Congregation Council (LL-Conf) 6:00 PM Embroiderers Guild (FH)	11 7:30 AM Women's VdC (L) 10:30 AM Staff 5:00 PM LIFE Choir (CR) 6:00 PM All Committee Dinner, Meetings & Council Meeting	12 9:30 AM Library 3:00 PM CC Board Mtg (L) 7:00 PM Luther Choir (CR)	13 9:00 AM VdC Reunion Group (L)	14 8:00 AM VdC-Mixed (L)
15 Messenger Deadline <i>Second Sunday after Epiphany</i> 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School for all ages 11:00 AM Worship 3:30 PM Youth Ice Skating 5:00 PM Cub Scouts (FH)	16 <i>Martin Lutheran King, Jr. Day</i> <i>Office closed</i> 4:30 PM Yoga 5:30 PM VdC-Women (L) 6:00 PM GSA Troop 20110 (FH) 6:00 PM VdC Women (Jr Conf); Men (YR)	17 Thrivent (LL-Conf) 7:00 AM Tuesday Morning Prayer 2:30 PM Lakeshore Ministries (meet at 2PM)	18 7:30 AM Women's VdC (L) 10:30 AM Staff 5:00 PM LIFE Choir (CR) 7:00 PM Lay School of Theology (FH)	19 9:30 AM Library 12:00 PM OWLS Luncheon & a Movie (FH) 5:45 PM Wittenberg Ringers (LL-BR) 7:00 PM Luther Choir (CR) 7:00 PM Third Thursday Theology Pub	20 9:00 AM VdC Reunion Group (L)	21 8:00 AM VdC-Mixed (L) 9:00 AM CPR Training (FH)
22 <i>Third Sunday after Epiphany</i> 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School for all ages 11:00 AM Worship 5:30 PM Youth Dinner & Learning Event	23 Pastor's Day Off 1:00 PM Ladies Bridge (FH) 4:30 PM Yoga 5:30 PM VdC-Women (L) 6:00 PM VdC Women (Jr Conf); Men (YR)	24 7:00 AM Tuesday Morning Prayer 1:00 PM WELCA Book Study (L)	25 7:30 AM Women's VdC (L) 10:30 AM Staff 5:00 PM LIFE Choir (CR) 7:00 PM Lay School of Theology (FH)	26 9:30 AM Library 1:00 PM CC Frontline Training (FH) 5:30 PM Frontline III Training (FH) 5:45 PM Wittenberg Ringers (LL-BR) 7:00 PM Luther Choir (CR)	27 9:00 AM VdC Reunion Group (L)	28 8:00 AM VdC Training (All rooms) 8:00 AM VdC-Mixed (L) 9:30 AM Wee Care (LL-Conf)
29 <i>Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</i> 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School for all ages 11:00 AM Worship 5:00 PM High School serve, eat & worship at tyson House 5:00 PM Middle School pack college care packages	30 Pastor's Day Off 4:30 PM Yoga 5:30 PM VdC-Women (L) 6:00 PM VdC Women (Jr Conf); Men (YR)	31 7:00 AM Tuesday Morning Prayer	1 7:30 AM Women's VdC (L) 10:30 AM Staff 5:00 PM LIFE Choir (CR) 7:00 PM Lay School of Theology (FH)	2 9:30 AM Library 5:45 PM Wittenberg Ringers (LL-BR) 7:00 PM Luther Choir (CR)	3 MS Faith Alive @ Lutheridge 9:00 AM VdC Reunion Group (L)	4 MS Faith Alive @ Lutheridge 8:00 AM VdC-Mixed (L) 10:00 AM SES: Invitation to Lent

the Messiah Messenger
published monthly by
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2012