



**Mission:** To create a loving, growing community that honors and worships God; strives for a broader understanding of the nature of God; proclaims the Good News of Jesus Christ; challenges its members to live in commitment to that Good News; reaches out to those in need; and promotes Christian unity.

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## First Christian Church Newsletter

520 S. Osage, P. O. Box 1177, Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74005 (918)336-4520

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### Finger Food Fiesta

*(following the worship service)*

**December 4, 2011**

**Bring your favorite finger food to share.**

After everyone has finished tasting all the Finger Food Goodies you're invited to help stuff the Goodie Bags for the Salvation Army.



### SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC SUNDAY

On Sunday, December 18 join us in worship in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. as we look forward again to the coming of the Christ Child with special Christmas Music.



*The Christmas Eve Service will be at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to join us for this special time of celebrating the birth of Christ.*

### CHRISTMAS DAY IS EXTRA SPECIAL THIS YEAR

*Join us on Sunday, December 25th at 10:30 a.m. as we gather for carols, cookies and cocoa in the Fellowship Hall. The Worship Committee invites you to request your favorite Christmas Carol as we worship the Lord and celebrate the birth of Christ. Please bring your family and friends. Dress will be comfortable and casual.*

## Robnotes



Advent is here. We have entered the Christmas Holiday season

For many, “Christmas” begins after Halloween and ends as soon as the presents are opened and dinner is finished! It seems to me we are surrounded by “holiday” trees and fewer and fewer Nativity scenes lately. The Christmas music in stores is seldom religious anymore. I appreciate it when I enter a store and hear a familiar Christmas Carol that is spiritual in nature.

The reality is that we must make an effort to find the real meaning of these days.

Actually, on the church calendar, the Christmas season *begins* on Christmas eve and extends into January with the flight into Egypt of Mary, Joseph and Jesus.. By that time, the stores have long forgotten about Christmas and are already for Valentines’ day.

How can we reclaim this season for ourselves, as it was intended to be?

It is not always possible to keep the Christmas tree up through the second week of January, but let me suggest that we leave our nativity scenes remaining through the second week of January . There is so much spiritual insight and wisdom to be found by reflecting on the circumstances of Christ’s birth.

What are those circumstances:

### ***Christ was born into poverty.***

These days, many are losing their homes and their jobs. The food banks are overflowing with those needing assistance. Suddenly, the humble circumstances of Christ’s birth takes on new meaning for many people. Christ will especially be found among those who are in great need. Why not make a donation of food or money to the local food banks like Mary Martha, Concern or the Salvation Army this Christmas?

### ***Jesus and his family had to flee to Egypt.***

This meant Joseph was out of a job. He had to provide for his family’s needs by accepting the charity of others and looking for work once they arrived in the Jewish community in Egypt. Some of us, too, will be far away from home this Christmas, wherever home may be. Actually, all of us are refugees in the sense that our true home is in heaven. Christ, therefore, teaches us not to become too settled in one place. Unsettling times and moving on are also part of God’s plan for us.

### ***Jesus, Mary and Joseph didn’t have a lot of stuff.***

How could they, when they had to travel to Bethlehem and then to Egypt? Why not make a sweep of the house, eliminating useless clutter and things that we have not used in awhile, and give the whole lot of it to the Goodwill or Mary Martha?

Just a few possibilities. Christmas is always a festive time here at the church. Let us keep our true focus as we seek to honor Jesus our Lord this holiday season. I look forward to seeing you in Worship this Holiday Season.

In Christ, Pastor Rob

**REMEMBER THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED**

December 26 & 27



Barbara Creel  
Elizabeth Cook  
Page Harshfield  
Ann McCleskey  
Q & Etta Montgomery  
Frances Gardner  
Charlotte Spencer  
Barbara Parsons  
Helen Stead  
Doris Hamilton  
Jennifer McKissick  
Chester Spencer  
Wilda Chew



Michele (Johnson) Uhlig  
Sue Sharp (Emily Hays)  
Leonard & Elaine LaRue  
(Roger & Suzanne Shiflet)  
Greg Mueggenborg (Margery Maple)  
Charlie Chaffin (Debbie Lansford)  
Gordon Grant  
Scott Fooshee (Harriett Lansford)  
Allyson Perry (Debbie Lansford)  
Howard Jones (Margery Maple)  
Jerry Smith (Chester & Charlotte Spencer)  
Stephanie Austin (Barbara Anderson)  
Toly Artunoff (Margery Maple)  
Bobby Hindman (Steve Seger)  
Jarand Kennedy (Claire Meredith)

Jim Cyrus (Faye Marlowe)  
Carilu Robinson (Faye Marlowe)  
Isaac Watkins (Mary Lou Bray)  
Dean Marlowe (Faye Marlowe)  
Tim Ingram (Lee & Gay Cooper)  
Mike Margul (Lee & Gay Cooper)  
Kyle Lansford (Harriett & Debbie)  
Armed Forces  
Steve O'Gara (Jr. & Barbara)  
Those Incarcerated in prison  
Connor Sample (LaVerne Hodgkinson)  
Molly Bechtelheimer (Emily Hays)  
Linda Jarrett (JoAnn Brouse)  
Marje Zumalt (Billie Walker)  
Shirley Davidson (David Davidson)

**JANE PHILLIPS HOSPITAL:** Ann McCleskey - Rm. 386



The CWF Groups will be meeting with Disciples Christian Church and Nowata Christian Church on Wednesday, December 14 at 10:00 a.m. for the Annual Christmas Brunch. The Nowata Christian Church will be the host this year. We will be car pooling and taking the van. Please gather here at FCC before 9:30 a.m. as we will be leaving at 9:30 for Nowata. Please call in your reservations to the Church Office, (918)336-4520 by December 7. The CWF Night Group and any other church members who would like to volunteer will be meeting at 5:15pm at 1st Presbyterian Church to help serve the meal at Bridges Out of Poverty.

### CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

**Annual Meeting & Tea Friday, December 2 - 1:00 p.m.**  
**First Presbyterian Church**

The program, "Christmas Classics", will be by Kathy Stewart, Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church. Everyone is welcome to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season by attending this special event.

### Special Congregational Opportunity Tuesday, December 6th at 6:30pm



Reverend Ken Woodhams, minister of the the Ecumenical Parish ( the partnering /yoking of the First Christian Church and First Presbyterian Church in Pawhuska ) will present a special presentation to our Board. **All Members of the congregation** are encouraged to join us in the Fellowship Hall on **Tuesday, December 6th at 6: 30 pm.** The Board will meet after this gathering in the Choir Room.



Our sympathy to the family and friends of the following recent deaths:

**Barney Morris** passed away on October 31, services were held here on November 4.  
**Scott Bailey** passed away on November 1 and services were held here on November 5.  
**Jerry Ralston**, son of John Ralston passed away November 12 in Corpus Christi, Tx.



**Item for CONCERN**  
for the Month of  
**December**  
**"Shampoo"**

Please place in the basket near the alley door. We will deliver items to the CONCERN Center.

## Thank You!

We want to say thank you to all our Church family and friends for the thoughts and prayers for Kyle during his brain tumor scare and surgery. He is doing very well now, back at work, even had an afternoon of golf recently so is recovering nicely. His work on the barn was slowed down of course but he found contractors to finish the loft, roof, etc and now waiting for a stone mason to do the outside. Thanks to all. Debbie and Harriett Lansford

Many thanks to our wonderful church family for the prayers, get-well cards, phone calls and food during my recent gallbladder surgery. Rob's hospital visit was also greatly appreciated.  
With love, Phyllis Sturm

## Cupcakes for Jane Phillips Elementary

Mark your calendars for Monday, December 19 at 5:30 pm to meet in the church kitchen. This will be the last time this school year to bake and decorate approximately 20 cupcakes for six Jane Phillips Elementary school classes. Thanks to all who donated time and money for the October Baking Event. We had a very enjoyable hour visiting, working and tasting! ☺

If you would like to order a Poinsettia(s) to be placed in the chancel area the 18th & 25th, please fill out the info below and place in the offering plate, mail or drop by the office. Cost is \$11 each. Make checks payable to First Christian. Deadline to order will be Thursday, December 8th by 4pm. #Ordering\_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Given in Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given in Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

## MOUNTAIN OF FOOD UPDATE

First Christian is making a difference in the lives of people in our community! Our recent Mountain of Food drive resulted in \$1600. worth of food being purchased and delivered to Concern. Filling the pantry at Concern is critical to sustaining one of Concern's missions which is to provide food for those in need in Bartlesville. Thanks to all of you who participated and to the Trustees and David Davidson for picking up and delivering the food.

**Save yourself taxes** and help **CONCERN** at the same time. If you are over 70 ½ and you donate some or all of your IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) **directly** to a charity in 2011 the donation can be a Qualified Charitable Distribution and you will not be taxed on the RMD. What a win win solution! You need to do it prior to December 31, 2011. For more information call your tax advisor or Faye Marlowe at 918-336-2600.

### OFFICE HOURS:

#### Office Manager office hours

Monday through Thursday-8:30am - 4:30pm  
(closed for lunch 12 noon - 1:20pm)

#### Pastor Rob Scofield's office hours

**Drop in Hours:** Tues., Wed., Thurs.

9am - noon.

**Appointments:** Tues., Wed., & Thurs. afternoon and Friday morning and afternoon.

**In addition:** Pastor Rob can be contacted at

918-397-4471 (cell)

### experience the sacred

Through song and silence in the

#### *Spirit of Taize*

5:30 pm

(first Thursday of each month) (Nov. 3)

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

300 NE Madison

### Sunday Worship Schedule:

**Sunday School: 9:15 a.m**

**Worship: 10:30 a.m.**

### Staff:

**Intentional Interim Pastor: Rob Scofield**

**Music Director:**

**Margery S. Maple**

**Office Manager:**

**Lou Brown**

**Custodian:**

**Billy Rogers**

**Nursery Attendant:**

**Retta Seger**

NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE

The deadline for articles for the next newsletter will be Tuesday, December 19th by 9:00 a.m.

