

# THE AMBASSADOR

January 2012

## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

### WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Last fall it was a great privilege to gather with a group of very dedicated youth who have learned a great deal about the truths of our Christian Faith. Based on the historic confession of the Apostles' Creed, our lessons included:

Who is God the Father?  
Who is Jesus Christ?  
How does the Holy Spirit work in our lives?  
Where did the Bible come from?  
How can I serve in ministry through my church?  
What is Baptism?  
What happens at Holy Communion?  
Who are the saints of the Church?  
What does it mean to be a United Methodist?

Special activities included in our lessons included: visiting residents at the Browning Masonic Community to hear about their life in the church and collecting gently used clothing for local clothing bank at Hope UMC in Whitehouse.

Thanks to Stephanie Shelton for organizing this year's class. Her gifts skills have been a great help to making this journey a smooth and successful one. Appreciation goes out to those who served as Prayer Partners along the way as well. Thanks for offering your encouragement and support!

Our worship service on Sunday, January 22, 2012 is set to welcome this special group of young people as our newest church members. Please join us for this once-in-a-lifetime moment on their journey of faith.

### Congratulations to:

Camryn Buskey	Emily May
Matt Emahiser	Kaylee Selders
Kayla Galton	Sarah Shoemaker
Malachi Lipinski	Brock Snyder
Mikael Lipinski	Elizabeth Snyder
Katie Martin	Kaitlin Warner

# Getting Organized to Serve You Better:

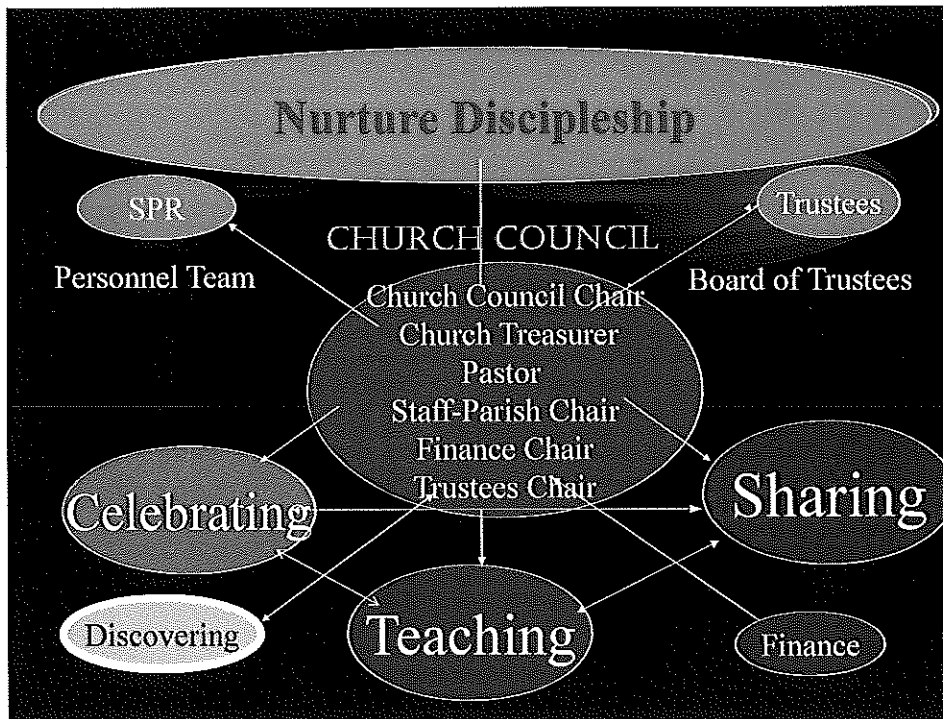
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## New Church Council Structure Implemented for 2012

Last fall, Pastor Steve and a small group of leaders met with church consultant John Laster to discuss ways we could improve the quality of our ministry organization and structure. One of the action steps from that meeting was to have a leadership council built specifically around our mission to “nurture discipleship by celebrating, teaching, and sharing God love.” The resulting reorganization allows us to begin to live into a smaller, simpler model that allows us to function more according to the size of our congregation.

At our November 2011 Church Council Meeting, we further discussed the validity of moving to a new structure that reduces meetings and empowers people to share in ministry and activities. So beginning in January, we are slowly going to live into a new model of “doing the work of the church.”

For those of you who like to see pictures and diagrams, this might be of help to you:



Each of these areas will continue to meet with their respective teams as they have in the past, setting meeting schedules as needed. Then they will bring needed items to the Council as needed. Perhaps you are wondering: *What about ministry groups? When do they meet? Where is a particular interest group like worship, youth, or outreach?* These are good questions! And briefly here is how ministry groups will reorganize in the new model as well:

A key component of the model organizes our ministries to our mission of nurturing, celebrating and teaching. So each of our ministries would fall somewhere in the one of these three components. These are represented by the three larger ovals in the diagram.

**Celebrating God's Love:** This group includes our worship function and the teams that work with our existing Worship Committee and the Pastor. This team meets every other month to do its planning and scheduling.

**Teaching God's Love:** This area will work with pastor to assess our church's spiritual health and vitality in areas of education and learning, including: Children's Ministry, Youth, Spiritual Health Team, and Bible Study groups. Pastor would like to meet with these leaders, to plan, encourage, report on goals, and pray for one another. Look for our first meeting to be scheduled in late January.

**Sharing God' Love:** This team will comprise perhaps the largest number of our ministries to include missions, outreach, community service projects, congregational care, prayer teams, women's ministry projects, etc. When you consider all the ministries that serve others through our congregation, this is quite a large group. Like our teaching and celebrating functions, this team would meet with Pastor Steve to plan, encourage, set goals, and pray together. Pastor would like to meet with this group in early February.

**Discovering God's Love:** In this smaller oval, Pastor Steve will work with new members and others to get better acquainted with ministry opportunities and ways to connect with our congregation. We believe that God has a place for everyone to participate in what the Holy Spirit is doing in our midst, and making others feel welcome to come, grow, and serve together is important for our continued health and growth.

By working with like-minded ministry teams, leaders do their organizing and planning within their new group. **Leaders are not expected to attend Church Council meetings. Reports will be prepared for your ministry group times and can be sent to Church Council for a brief summary review.**

In closing, it is important to keep in mind that this is a "working model." It is not perfected yet, but is a starting place to begin the streamlining process that allows more participation in ministry with few meetings. There are still some areas that need consideration with Pastor and Church Council, so you may see some changes in the structure as we grow into it.

On Sunday, January 8, we will install our new leaders and teams for 2012. In addition, you will receive a detailed listing of individuals and groups for information and use this coming year. For now, we would ask you to pray for Pastor Steve and our leaders as we begin this needed work together. Changes like these will seem overwhelming at first, but if we are prayerful and open to new possibilities we may discover that God may want to do a new, fresh, exciting work in our midst!

Watch for more details and information in future communications coming soon!

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## ***News from the Church Office:***

As everyone knows, we are grateful and blessed by the fine work of our church office staff! With the recent retirement of Penny Greenlese, we have been working to make some transitions in some of our daily work to serve your needs.

- Pastor Steve and Staff-Parish Relations will be meeting in early January to interview candidates for the days and hours that are available on Mondays-Wednesdays. With needed recommendations and approvals, we hope to have a new individual working in the office by January 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Cathy Landis, our office staff person for Thursdays and Fridays will be available each day for your needs. Penny and Cathy will be making some final transitions with duties and items in the next couple of weeks together, but you'll be greeted by Cathy's presence and gifts with your messages, calls and visits into the church office.
- Jim Page has graciously agreed to lead us through some streamlining of our bookkeeping and treasurer functions. In meetings with Penny, Dick George, and Tom Wiggins, we have begun some new and exciting ways to be sure that your gifts and stewardship will be handled with the care and importance you've come to expect.

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## **LUNCH BUNCH**



Start the new year with the Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, January 18th at **12:00 p.m.** The ladies will be dining at the Whitehouse Hope United Methodist Church for their buffet luncheon. If you need a ride, please call Tehya Collinsworth at 419-878-8616. Please note the new time for this month.

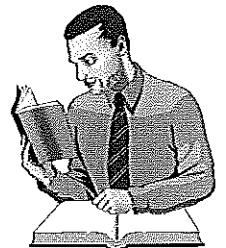
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## **ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**

Starting Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. we are offering 2 new Bible Fellowship classes.

Meet in the Sunshine room for a Ray Vander Laan DVD study, With All Your Heart. This 6 week faith lesson is led by Melva Robinson.

The other class, Sacred Parenting, by Jerry Thomas, will meet in the balcony and is led by Delores Young.



# Youth Alive

Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life! John 14:6 We are Alive in Jesus!

- January 8 - Youth Alive, 6:00 pm
- January 15 - Youth Alive, 6:00 pm
- January 21 - Youth Fundraiser - Babysitting for the ABC Group, 6:00-8:30 pm
- January 22 - Melva, Jerry, and Delores' Diner, 5:30 pm
- January 28 - Annual Youth Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser
- January 29 - No Youth Alive

Upcoming Dates - Mark your Calendar!

March 2-3 Dare to Share Conference in Dayton

Check your cell phone for the most up-to-date information.

If you would like to receive the Youth Texts to your cell phone, please contact Adam Shelton (419-205-2516)



*The Confirmation Class will be organizing a Clothing Drive this December through January 22. The gently-used clothes will be donated to the Clothing Closet at Hope United Methodist Church in Whitehouse. There will be boxes located in the Fellowship Hall for you to drop off your clothing.*

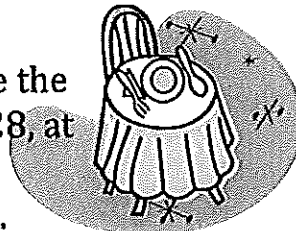
## **Youth Fundraiser - Lasagna Dinner**

The youth will be serving a lasagna dinner before the Theater for the World play on Saturday, January 28, at

6:30 pm. You must have reservations.

Please make your reservations by January 22.

Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children.

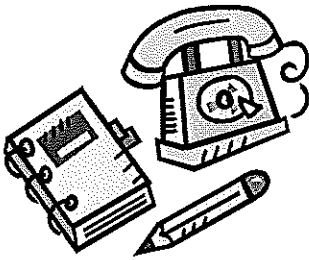




## XYZ (EXTRA YEARS OF ZEST)

It's been a long time since we have gotten together. So let's start 2012 with a New Year's Eve open house party at the home of Ted & Terry Myers, 10954 Ramm Rd., Whitehouse. We'll ring in the New Year (or however long we can stay awake) with great fellowship and games starting at 7:30 pm. Come whenever you like. Bring a dish to share and/or your favorite game, if you wish. To get an idea of how many to plan for, see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or give Ted or Terry a call.

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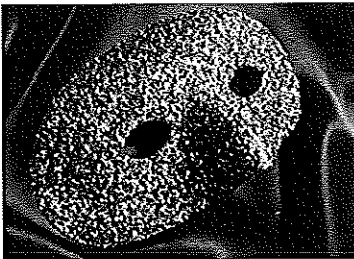
## PHONE DIRECTORY

New church phone directories were mailed out last month. If you did not receive yours, please call the church office.

Please make this correction in your book – phone number for Bill & Sue Gregory, Sr. is 419-878-6517. Phone number for Bill & Marcie Gregory is 419-878-2117.

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## Theatre-for-the-World



It's time to put on another show and nothing says Christian love like "Arsenic and Old Lace." Okay, maybe there are better shows for that, but we're doing this one anyway. Please join us for this famous comedy on **January 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 or the 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:30**. We promise to entertain! Also, the youth group is planning another dinner for the Saturday performance. Don't forget to make a reservation and support their next mission trip. It makes for a great evening of dinner theatre.

This is the largest production we've ever done in the sanctuary so we are asking for your help and forgiveness over the coming month. The cast and crew are already busy with production work, but we have lots to accomplish in a short amount of time. We'd appreciate any help with ushering, publicity, cookie baking, refreshment attending and food collecting. We'll post a volunteer sheet in the hall in early January.

Believe it or not, this is year seven for us and we are grateful for your continuous support. We know that the food pantries have only increased their patrons over the past 7 years; consequently, we humbly ask you to spread the word about our show and the reason behind our group. Please pray for us and the families we may assist with our efforts. Thanks to all your past support we have collectively raised nearly \$13,000 and filled nearly 500 bags of groceries for the Anthony Wayne and Otsego Food Pantries. We are also about half way to our goal of digging that well in Africa. Help us be God's hands and with his blessing we can make a difference locally and across the globe.

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## SCENES OF THE NATIVITY



We hope you had time to visit the Fireside Room when it was filled with nativities. It was a lovely display with 67 nativities of all different sizes and styles. Some had special memories, a few were home made, and some came from far away travels. Thank you to everyone who lent their very special nativities for viewing. Thank you also for those who helped set up, supplied cookies, and hosted during the viewing times. A very special thank you to Cindy Box for the inspiration and organizing this very special event.

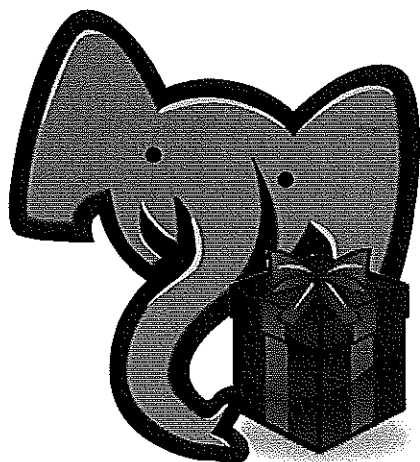
Thank you to all the children and youth of the church who participated in the Children's Christmas program "the Christmas Lizard" on December 18<sup>th</sup>. All the acting and singing were wonderful. We have some very talented children here! The costumes, decorations, and props were great. Thanks also to the adult helpers, Stephanie Shelton, Barb Page, Bobbie Westfall, Jammie Gribble, and Pastor Steve.

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## DVDS FOR VETERANS



Is it time to clean out your DVD collection after receiving all the new ones for Christmas? We have just the place for your unwanted ones. The Maumee VFW Post 11115 is collecting new or previously viewed DVDs for veteran's hospitals. They help recuperating veterans pass the time during their hospital stays. We will have a collection box in the Fellowship Hall for our members to help with the collection. Also accepted are working portable DVD players. If you have any questions, please contact Rob Greenlese.



## **ABC's White Elephant Party**

**When:** January 21, 6:00-8:30 pm

**Where:** Fellowship Hall

**Who:** ABCs (Adults Bringing up Children)

**What to Bring:** A White Elephant Gift

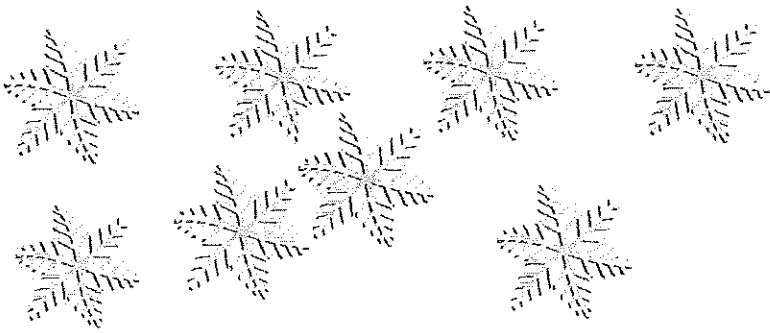
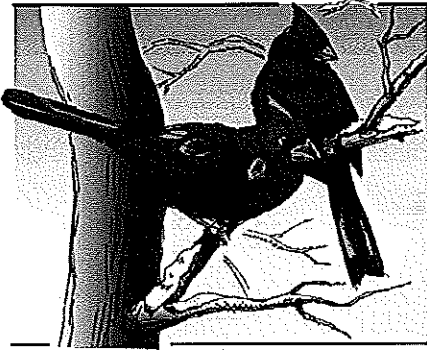
and an Appetizer or Dessert to Share

**RSVP:** Adam or Stephanie Shelton

(419-441-2096 or

[ashelton26@accesstoledo.com](mailto:ashelton26@accesstoledo.com))

Babysitting will be available in the Nursery/Youth



# JANUARY 2012 BIRTHDAYS



## Day Adults

6	Anna Emahiser	19	Nancy A. Stafford
7	Kim Jakubowski	19	Bernard Utz
9	Kevin Jakubowski	25	Ann Nightingale
13	Karl Kirkman	27	Tehya Collinsworth
13	Kim Marshall	29	Verna Rose
13	Sandi Schultz	30	Tedd Munn
15	Christopher Stafford	31	Fritzie Schifferly
17	Tom Shoemaker	31	Jim Simpson
19	Elaine Larimer		

## Day Youth

6	Trevor Letzring	22	Mikael Lipinski
6	Noah Sample	27	Roslynd Laurie
18	Darby Bock	29	Joshua Shelton
22	Madelyn Varner	30	Elaine Jakubowski




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*Jacob Joseph Hires* was baptized on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Jacob is the son of Justin and Renee Hires, Grandson of Bob and Bobbie Hires, and Great-Grandson of Bob and Millie Hires.

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# **Finance & Stewardship**

## **Facts, Figures, FYI's**

Welcome to a new addition to our monthly newsletter. Now that we've established that it's OK to talk about money, well we're going to go right ahead and do just that. This is a work in progress endeavor to inform, clarify and discuss a variety of topics related to finance and stewardship. Each month we'll include the offering stats you are used to seeing, along with other financial information and updates.

- During Worship on January 8<sup>th</sup> we'll be announcing the final results of our 2012 Stewardship Campaign and our 2011 year-end income vs. expenses status.
- Your 2011 Giving Statements will be emailed or sent via US Mail the week of January 13.
- Our topic for next month will be about our annual Operating Budget that is supported by your tithes and offerings.

Please contact the Church Office or Tom Wiggins if you have any questions about anything related to finance or stewardship.

*"Money is an excellent gift of God answering the noblest of ends"*  
John Wesley

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### **STATISTICS**

DATE	WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	MISSIONS	SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
December 4	174	\$6,222.00	\$ 210.00	\$1,105.00	46
December 11	186	8,898.05	70.00	20.00	32
December 18	230	3,768.11	165.00	45.00	----
December 24	228	2,960.00	25.00	0.00	----
December 25	67	1,263.00	10,464.28	0.00	----

Our Thanksgiving and Christmas Offering to date total is \$2,461.00. It's not too late to make a contribution. All money collected will be donated to the Friendly Center to help with their Holiday Basket of Food Drive.

## Christian Hope and Sympathy to:

Vonnie Utz and Family upon the death of her sister, *Florabelle Thompson*, who passed away on November 27<sup>th</sup>;

Bob Spychalski and Family upon the death of his brother, *Ollie Spychalski*, on December 6<sup>th</sup>;

Ardis Cullen, Barb Page, and Families upon the death of *Linda Linn* on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Linda was Ardis' beloved daughter and loving sister to Barb. Linda had been a member at Waterville UMC since 1957. A Celebration of Life Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, February 4, at 11:00 a.m. at the church.



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### Hospitalized in December –

Millie Hires  
Richard Schifferly

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## Pregnancy Center

The Pregnancy Center invites you to their Annual Fundraiser, "Sweet Endings" featuring Dr. Bruce Wilkinson, on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012, at the Westgate Chapel. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., program begins at 7:00 p.m. Elegant dessert and coffee reception immediately following the program. Tickets are \$25.00 each. You must RSVP before January 26. For more information contact Melva Robinson or go to [events.pregnancycenter.org](http://events.pregnancycenter.org) or [tickets@pregnancycenter.org](mailto:tickets@pregnancycenter.org).

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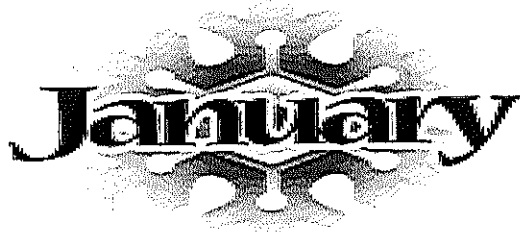


Dear friends,

How can I begin to thank you for almost 25 years of making my job as your church secretary so easy, fulfilling and fun. From the very beginning when filling in for Priscilla Schlingman and then sharing the office duties with her, to becoming full-time and then back to part-time sharing with Cathy Landis, this has been a great job. I have been blessed with your friendship along with your help and caring during the times when it was needed. I have been fortunate to share the many wonderful events of my family with you also. And

the great thing about retiring from a "church job" is that I am only leaving the office not the church. I will still be involved with the activities around here. So thank you to all who have offered their blessings with cards, gifts, and memories!

See you in church on Sunday! Love, Penny



WATERVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

102 NORTH FIFTH STREET

WATERVILLE, OHIO 43566

REV. STEVE RATH, PASTOR


CHURCH OFFICE: 419/878-3645 or 419/878-5225

E-MAIL: [watervilleumc@embarqmail.com](mailto:watervilleumc@embarqmail.com)

FAX: 419/878-4222

PASTOR'S CELL: 419/419-8396

WEB SITE: [www.watervilleumc.org](http://www.watervilleumc.org)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<u>1</u> 10:30am Worship Service	<u>2</u> 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #101	<u>3</u> 2:00pm Bible Study at Browning Complex 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	<u>4</u> 9:30am M&Ms Pray & Share 10:00am M&Ms to Seagate Food Bank	<u>5</u> 7:30am Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Band Practice 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Practice	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>8</u> 9:00am Adult Bible Fellowship 9:00am Kid's Club 10:30am Worship Service with Children's Sunday School 11:30am Epiphany Party 6:30pm Contemporary Worship Service	<u>9</u> 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #101	<u>10</u> 2:00pm Bible Study at Browning Complex 6:00pm Board of Trustee Meeting 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	<u>11</u> 9:30am M&Ms Bible Study 5:15pm Kinder Choir Practice 6:00pm Handbell Practice	<u>12</u> 7:30am Men's Bible Study 10:00am Clergy Cluster 6:00pm Band Practice 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Practice	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>15</u> 9:00am Adult Bible Fellowship 9:00am Kid's Club 10:30am Worship Service with Children's Sunday School 6:00pm Youth Alive! 6:30pm Contemporary Worship Service	<u>16</u> 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #101	<u>17</u> 2:00pm Bible Study at Browning Complex 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	<u>18</u> 9:30am M&Ms Bible Study 12:45pm Lunch Bunch 5:15pm Kinder Choir Practice 6:00pm Handbell Practice 6:00pm Finance Meeting 7:30pm Administrative Council Meeting	<u>19</u> 7:30am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Band Practice 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Practice	<u>20</u> <b>Deadline for the February Ambassador</b>	<u>21</u> 6:00pm ABC's White Elephant gift Exchange Party
<u>22</u> 9:00am Adult Bible Fellowship 9:00am Kid's Club 10:30am Worship Service with Children's Sunday School 5:30pm Youth Alive! 6:30pm Contemporary Worship Service	<u>23</u> 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #101	<u>24</u> 2:00pm Bible Study at Browning Complex 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	<u>25</u> 9:30am M&Ms Bible Study 5:15pm Kinder Choir Practice 6:15pm Handbell Practice	<u>26</u> 7:30am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Band Practice 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>27</u> 7:30pm Theatre-For-The-World presents "Arsenic and Old Lace"	<u>28</u> 6:30pm Lasagna Dinner 7:30pm Theatre-For-The-World presents "Arsenic and Old Lace"
<u>29</u> 9:00am Adult Bible Fellowship 9:00am Kid's Club 10:30am Worship Service with Children's Sunday School 1:30pm Theatre-For-The-World presents "Arsenic and Old Lace" 6:30pm Contemporary Worship Service	<u>30</u> 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #101	<u>31</u> 10:30am Prayer Quilt 2:00pm Bible Study at Browning Complex 7:00pm Women's Bible Study		JANUARY  <b>Altar &amp; Flowers</b> ALL SUNDAYS ARE OPEN		