



2012

Happy New Year everyone! As some of you read this, it will either be shortly before or maybe a little after the first of the year. Either way, our minds may be doing what they have been doing for weeks, maybe months ... rushing! Rushing onto the next thing! You have probably been busy with all sorts of activities and festivities. I hope the recent days have been full of joy and good cheer. But even in the midst of celebration, we can easily get so caught up in all that needs to be done ... Did you feel like this at all the past few weeks? I know I did!

We tell ourselves, "I am really going to take the time to pause, reflect, and rejoice over our Savior's birth this year" ... and I hope that we all have done that. But if you are like me, we can easily get so caught up in working for the Lord that we forget to be still and worship. We need to be *still* so that He can *fill*. When we offer up all that we have, He then offers us something as well – joy and peace, rest and renewal. In this way, we are able to live out our purpose for being – to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

Now you may be thinking, "But Chris, Christmas is over!" But it isn't! Christmas *begins* on Christmas Day! It is easy to forget that amidst a culture that can't wait during the time of waiting (Advent), and who quickly moves on as soon as the Wonder we've been waiting for arrives! Now that Christmas Day has come and gone, there are three ways we can respond:

1. *Looking back* – wishing we could have enjoyed it more, or wishing those times weren't over – this leads to discouragement or depression.
2. *Rushing forward* – staying in the same gear as we are so used to, always busy, always more to get done, never enough time – this leads to frustration and exhaustion.
3. *Living worshipfully* – this requires us to intentionally take the focus off of ourselves, our errands, our struggles – off those things that pull us away from a spirit of gratitude and grace – the countless inconveniences that we zoom in on ... and to instead put that focus on our countless blessings, and to remember the One from whom they all come. To live in a way that we take nothing for granted – all so that we can live more effectively in the present as servants of the King and witnesses to our Savior. As we enter the New Year, may we commit to *rejoicing* over the Father's love, *resting* in our Savior's grace, and *relying* on the Spirit's power.

May the Lord use us mightily this year,

Pastor Chris



As 2012 begins I'm sure we all have memories of 2011. There have been some major events in our community as well as our world that will certainly go down in history but probably one of my most memorable occasions will be our Christmas cantata here at Riverlawn. It was wonderful to have the Wednesday Night Kids and instrumentalists join the choir for this special musical presentation. I was so grateful for everyone that participated in the cantata. As I watched the DVD of the service it was so special seeing and hearing the children sing. How precious they were! Thanks to all the choir members who gave unselfishly of their time during the past holiday season; to Pastor Chris and Caroline Dodrill for narrating and to the instrumentalists who accompanied the choir. Some of the instrumentalists were folks I had met last December when we combined with Bethel Baptist for our cantata; some were students I knew from Marshall; one was a local high school student and Lucy Suchy, in the percussion section, is one of our own. The Wayne family (French horn, bassoon, percussion) are from Clay County. Doug & Tracy are music teachers in that county and their daughter, Claire, plays bassoon in the WV Youth Symphony. John Ross (flute) teaches at WV State University and played last December and is pursuing her music degree at WVSU. Christmas. Alasha Al-Qudwah, violinist, I meet last The two clarinet players, Tim Cline & Adam Rhodes, I know from teaching at Marshall and Adam Gillespie attends SAHS & plays trumpet in the WVYS. Pianist, Mary Beth Norman, has been accompanying the choir for the past several months; she also teaches at Marshall. The narrators and all the musicians did a wonderful job.

One thing that added so much to our performance was due to the gentlemen at the sound and computer table. Pat Croghan spent a lot of time making sure everything was balanced and all mikes and sound equipment were working. Adam Recknagel was our sound technician for the morning. Paul O'Dell was the computer tech and did a great job for us. And last, but not least, thanks to Randy Dodrill for preparing the slide presentation that went with the cantata. I appreciate everyone who was involved that morning. We were able to share the message about the Light that came to earth on that first Christmas Day to many folks in our community that morning. May the praises uttered that morning continue throughout the upcoming year.

Happy New Year! Pam

A Time For Thanks...

We would like to thank all who participated this year.....

- to those who donated items to the boxes in the Narthex each Sunday of December.
- to those who bought for and assembled the Shoe Boxes.
- to those who donated money to buy food.
- to those who helped assemble the baskets with canned goods, toiletries and paper products.
- to those who helped with the basket pick-up and delivery



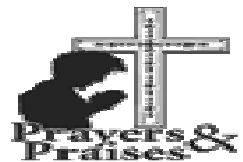
CHRISTMAS BASKETS

The annual distribution of Christmas baskets served 26 families in the Saint Albans area. Thanks to the sponsors, the workers and all who helped with prayers and support.



The Christmas decorations will be taken down on Saturday, Jan. 7th. Although it won't be as enjoyable as putting up the decorations, we will still be in good spirits and offer coffee and donuts to all who can help. Start time is 9:00am.

**Prayer & Praise Service Will Be
Jan. 15th 6:00pm**



Diapers and baby wipes will be collected for the local Gabriel Project on Jan. 15, Jan. 22, and Jan. 29. The collection boxes will be located in the narthex.

WOMEN'S NEWS



Circle 2 - will meet Tuesday, January 10th at 12:30 pm.

Circle 3 - will meet at 7:00 pm on January 16th.



January	07	9:00am Taking Down the Greens
January	08	12:30pm Deacons Meeting
January	15	6:00pm Prayer & Praise
January	23	9:00am Newsletter Deadline
January	29	6:00pm Session Meeting



Jan. 4	Pam Johnson & Laura Cottrill
Jan. 11	Judy Clingenpeel & Linda Means
Jan. 18	Pam Johnson & Hannah Bowman
Jan. 25	Joyce Ryan & Bob Wilson



Because I have been in the hospital, I was not able to send Christmas Cards to my church family but I want you to know I wish you each Christmas Blessings. I am so grateful for your concern, prayers, visits, gifts, and phone calls. May each of you have a special Christmas and a wonderful New Year. With love, Hazel Pritchard



Hazel Pritchard; Leota Wiblin; Bill & Janet Young; Jane McKinley; Jane Lothes' aunt Edye & her sister Kathy Barnes; Jan Owens; Sally Murray; Doc Ranson; also remember those serving in the military.

A New Year's Prayer



Holy Father, God of our yesterdays, our today, and our tomorrows. We praise You for Your unequaled greatness.

Thank You for the year behind us and for the year ahead. Help us in Your new year, Father, to fret less and laugh more.

To teach our children to laugh by laughing with them. To teach others to love by loving them. Knowing when Love came to the stable in Bethlehem, He came for us. So that Love could be with us, and we could know You. That we could share Love with others.

Help us, Father, to hear Your love song in every sunrise, in the chirping of sparrows in our backyards, in the stories of our old folks, and the fantasies of our children. Help us to stop and listen to Your love songs, so that we may know You better and better.

We rejoice in the world You loved into being.

Thank You for new chances every day. We pray for peace, for light, and for hope, that we might spread them to others. Forgive us for falling short this past year. We leave the irreparable past in your hands, and step out into the unknown new year knowing You will go with us.

We accept Your gift of a new year and we rejoice in what's ahead, depending on You to help us do exactly what You want .

In Jesus name, Amen



January

Jan. 8	Ron Claar
Jan. 9	Joe Wehrle
Jan. 13	Laura Cottrill
Jan. 15	Joanna Keller
Jan. 16	Phyllis Knapp
Jan. 20	Gayle Michael
Jan. 22	Betty McAdam
Jan. 29	Lucy Suchy
Jan. 30	Ryan Campbell



Toddler Nursery Schedule

Jan. 1st	Gayle Michael
Jan. 8th	Lucy Suchy
Jan. 15th	Caroline Dodrill
Jan. 22nd	Toni Sayre
Jan. 29th	Ann Brannen



Junior

Jan. 1st	Beckie Croghan
Jan. 8th	Debbie Roberts
Jan. 15th	Nikole Kilbert
Jan. 22nd	Susan Bryan
Jan. 29th	Joanna Keller

Church



Jan. 1st	Ann Brannen
Jan. 8th	Joe Lothes
Jan. 15th	Ron Spradling
Jan. 22nd	Connie Campbell
Jan. 29th	Randy Dodrill



Jan. 1	Dennis Emmett	727-2468
	Joe Lothes	767-8313
Jan. 8th	Mary Reppert	727-3274
	Joe Lothes	767-8313
Jan. 15th	Bill Bryan	534-2455
	Ron Spradling	727-5744
Jan. 22nd	Emma Rose Cavender	727-4577
	Connie Campbell	727-8786
Jan. 29th	Nancy Young	727-2463
	Randy Dodrill	722-3134

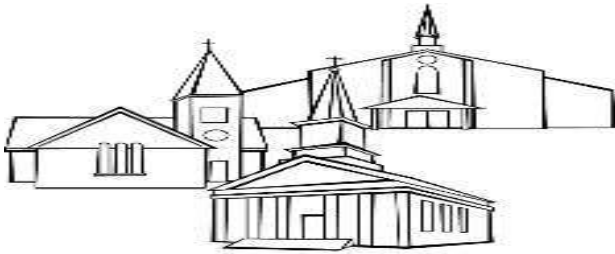


Building Security

Jan. 1st	Howard Paxton
Jan. 8th	Dick Campbell
Jan. 15th	Dennis Emmett
Jan. 22nd	Pete Lukowski
Jan. 29th	Bill Michael



January Caroline Dodrill



Covenanting Conference

The second national gathering of The Fellowship of Presbyterians will be January 18-20 in Orlando Fl. This Covenanting Conference will bring together people from across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) along with guests from other nations and other denominations who are hearing and answering God's call to a new way of being church. Some will be coming for information on the creation of the "New Reformed Body." Others are coming to discover further information and inspiration for ministry within the PC(USA). Together, we will covenant to discern God's call, support one another, and stand together as a living witness to the good news of Jesus Christ. Pastor Chris and Pat Croghan will be attending this conference. Please keep them, Riverlawn, and the larger Church in your prayers as we continue to discern together what God is doing and where he is leading.

(Drafts of the Theology and the Polity of the Fellowship of Presbyterians and the New Reformed Body are now available to view at www.fellowship-pres.org).

Happy New Year!

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CHICKEN AND DUMPLINGS

INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 pounds skinless,
boneless chicken breasts, cut
into 1-inch pieces
2 medium Yukon Gold
potatoes, cut into 1-inch pieces
2 cups whole baby carrots
2 stalks celery, sliced
2 (10.75 ounce) cans
Campbell's® Condensed Cream of Chicken Soup
(Regular or 98% Fat Free)
1 cup water
1 teaspoon dried thyme leaves,
crushed
1/4 teaspoon ground black
pepper
2 cups all-purpose baking mix
2/3 cup milk

DIRECTIONS

Place the chicken, potatoes, carrots and celery into a 6 quart slow cooker. Stir the soup, water, thyme and black pepper in a small bowl. Pour over the chicken and vegetables. Cover and cook on LOW for 7 to 8 hours* or until the chicken is cooked through.. Stir the baking mix and milk in a medium bowl. Spoon the batter over the chicken mixture. Turn the heat to HIGH. Tilt the lid to vent and cook for 30 minutes or until the dumplings are cooked in the center.

