

DECEMBER  
2011

# THE FIRST ALERT

*FIRST Presbyterian Church*

10 Charleston Ave

Mattoon, IL 61938

Phone (217) 234-6722 Fax (217)234-4334

Email: [fpchurch@consolidated.net](mailto:fpchurch@consolidated.net) Website: [www.fpcmattoon.org](http://www.fpcmattoon.org)



## *Sunday Worship*

8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Childcare provided

Children's Church

10:30 a.m.

Sunday school

9:30 a.m.

Kids' Club

Wednesdays

5:30 p.m.

Pastor

Rev. Art Woolverton

Secretary

Cherry Wishard

Treasurer

John Swick

Interim CE Director

Nancy Page

CE Asst. Director

Sharon Barta

Choir Director

Dick Barta

Organist

Kevin Chunko

Sexton

Tammy Latch

## The Pastor's Perspective

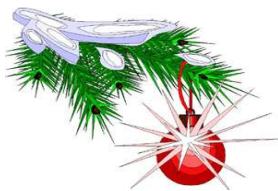
Sometimes you can learn a lot from television. I don't mean from the educational programs – although they can be very informative. I mean from the Situation Comedies! Recently my daughter has gotten me interested in a program about four friends who are Science Geeks. On a Christmas episode, one of the friends, Sheldon, receives a gift from his neighbor, Penny, who lives across the hall.

Sheldon is very awkward socially, and he reacts almost as if Penny had handed him a bomb. "I don't want a gift," he tells her. "If I receive a gift then I have to make restitution. I have to give you a gift of equal value in return. How would I know what to get?" But Penny insists, and Sheldon reluctantly accepts her gift.

Then Sheldon finds a way to address the problem. He buys several fruit baskets. After he opens Penny's gift and determines its value by looking it up on the Internet, he plans to give her a fruit basket (or baskets) that add up to the same price. The perfect solution! Or is it?

When he removes the wrapping, Sheldon is in for a surprise! One day at the restaurant where she works, Penny happened to wait on Leonard Nimoy, the actor who played Spock in television's original science fiction series, "Star Trek." Sheldon, who is a huge Star Trek fan, is overwhelmed when he sees a napkin with Spock's trademark greeting written on it, "Live long and prosper," signed by Leonard Nimoy himself! He brings in every fruit basket he had bought and lays them all at Penny's feet. "It's not enough!" he exclaims.

Isn't this a good illustration of the meaning of Christmas? "For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son..." (John 3:16). How could we put a price on such a gift? How could we possibly pay God back? It only stands to reason that believers would respond in amazement and wonder at the generosity of God. "Let us thank God for His priceless gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15).



**Bible Study**

The Thursday morning group is studying the Gospel of John. Anyone is welcome to study with the group from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. on Thursday mornings.

**REMINDER TO ALL CIRCLE MEMBERS:** The all Circle Christmas potluck is being planned for December 13, 2011 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**NEEDED:** A dozen empty Christmas cookie tins. Please drop them by the church office by December 13. The circle members attending the Christmas potluck will be filling them with cookies for the shut-ins.

.....  
● **We have a new look...**  
● We hope you like the  
● updated newsletter which  
● will now be available by  
● download from the  
● website. Or we would be  
● happy to send yours to  
● you by e-mail or regular  
● mail. Please let us know  
● your preference.  
● 234-6722  
.....

**Sunday Morning  
Van Drivers  
for December**

- Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> Bob Plummer
- Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> John Jeisy
- Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> Greg Thompson
- Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> Bill Saunders

**COLES COUNTY BARBERSHOP CHORUS  
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BENEFIT CONCERTS**

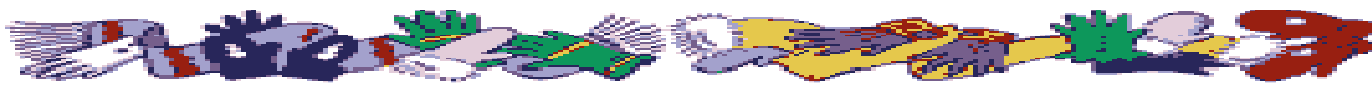
Continuing their tradition of "giving" to the community, the Coles County Barbershop Singers will present their 36th Annual Christmas Benefit Concerts on Sunday, December 4th. Wesley Methodist Church (2206 4th Street, Charleston) will host the 4 PM concert while the First Presbyterian Church (10 Charleston Ave in Mattoon) will be the site of the 7 PM performance. Both churches have plenty of parking and are wheel chair accessible. The 35 man chorus is made up of men from 20 different communities and is currently the third place barbershop chorus in state competition. Along with their quartets and special husband/wife mixed ensemble, they will present a FREE one hour concert that focuses on the true meaning of Christmas. A free will offering will be taken and disbursed to area needy (Food and Homeless Shelter Programs).



Everyone is invited to bring a poinsettia to decorate the church for Christmas. If you wish to have your Poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one, please share this information with the church office by **Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**. You may bring whatever color you would like.

**News from Kemmerer Village** I took twenty two crocheted caps and scarves to the village on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>. They were made by Barb Druin. The village is in the process of producing a video which will be available in the future. If any one wishes to purchase a gift for the children there is a list of items on the table in the Fellowship hall. Keep saving the Campbell lables and Box tops for Edcation. There is a box on the table in the Fellowship hall to place them in. Thanks to all who partipate in this. – Elsie Carter

**Mission Report** I mailed a box of thirty one crocheted caps, seventeen scarves and fifteen pairs of mittens to the Indian Reservation in Rosebud, South Dakota on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>. The caps and scarves were made by Barb Druin and the mittens by me. – Elsie Carter



Woman's Association  
First Presbyterian Church  
Mattoon, IL

Nov. 1, 2011

**Members present:** Connie Buescher, Alice Jeisy, Dorothy Phillips, Florence Beck, Bobbie McRoberts, Blanche Mills, Nancy Plummer, **Guest:** Sue Riggert

Moderator Connie Buescher called the Nov. 1, 2011 meeting to order with eight members present. Dorothy Phillips read devotions "The best day of my life" then opened with prayer.

The secretary's & treasurer's reports were read and approved.

**PW report:** The Thank offering will be collected at the end of Nov.

**Kemmerer report:** No report

**Presbytery report:** No report

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. The soup lunch went well. Waiting until the New Year for the next one.
2. the Ladies Leisurely lunch group had a good time at the Kemmerer Village outing.
3. Continue to table the fellowship hall donation and the banner purchase.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. The Honorary Life member, Karen Clausing, was announced on Oct. 16
2. The Worship committee suggested participating in the Peterson Park Live Nativity instead of having one at church. Also having the Westminster choir sing a second time on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm
3. Nancy Plummer made the motion to make a donation for candy for the Christmas parade (11-19-11). Blanche Mills seconded the motion. Motion carried.
4. Priscilla Circle will be in charge of the combined Christmas party.
5. A committee of Connie Buescher, Nancy Plummer and Dorothy Phillips will look into new chairs for the conference table.
6. The Fall style show plans are in full swing. Set up will be on Friday 11-11-11 at 9:00 a.m.
7. The Barbershoppers chorus will sing on Dec. 4.
  - a. Dorothy will make her punch: 8 gal-punch, 2-30 cups of coffee
  - b. A sign-up for cookies will be put in the narthex
8. The board will meet on Nov. 21 at 6:00 pm to put the Crimsons on the tree

**CIRCLE REPORT:**

Meeting closed with the Mizpah benediction  
Next meeting – Nov. 29, 11 @ 8:30am  
Respectfully submitted  
Alice Jeisy, Secretary

**PUZZLE**

**A PROMISED RULER**

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

Directions: To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.

$7+6$  strength  
 $9+1$  shepherd  
 $30-5$  the  
 $7+5$  ends  
 $50-26$  live  
 $21-10$  will  
 $27-29$  reach  
 $10+7$  flock  
 $40-20$  stand  
 $15+4$  security  
 $8+8$  his  
 $35-31$  Lord  
 $17-3$  greatness  
 $10-3$  earth  
 $10+5$  will  
 $5+1$  will

"He \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ ... And they \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_, for then \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."

MICAH 5:4, NIV



Snow Alert. Winter Weather Hotline... If you happen to find a winter wonderland on Sunday morning and are concerned or wondering if there will be church services.... Our contact person is **Paul Daily** ... or tune in to **WMCI 101.3** on the radio. Paul will be in contact with Rev. Art and a determination will be made regarding the weather and services. Paul's number is: 258-8941

**What to give?**



- To your enemy, forgiveness.
  - To an opponent, tolerance.
  - To a friend, your heart.
  - To a customer, service.
  - To all men, charity.
  - To every child, a good example.
  - To yourself, respect.
- Oren Arnold

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

The bake sale sponsored by the Middle School Youth Group was a huge success! Not only did we sell out of goodies, we raised \$148.50!! All proceeds are being donated directly to the Mattoon Food Center. We couldn't have done it without your support!!! Thank you so much!



**Let it shine**

Whatever else be lost among the years,  
 Let us keep Christmas still a shining thing.  
 Whatever doubts assail us, or what fears,  
 Let us hold close one day, remembering  
 Its poignant meaning for the hearts of men.  
 Let us get back our childlike faith again.

—Grace Noll Crowell

### The Christmas heart


“Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide open heart that thinks of others first. The birth of the baby Jesus stands as the most significant event in all history because it has meant the pouring into a sick world of the healing medicine of love which has transformed all manner of hearts for almost 2,000 years ... underneath all the bulging bundles is this beating Christmas heart.”

—George Matthew Adams

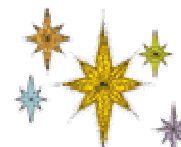
SATB

# Shout the *Good News!*

Christmas Messengers in Scripture and Song



Presented by  
**The Westminster Choir**  
Music Sunday  
December 18, 2011  
10:30 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.



# December Birthdays



From morning till night, may your birthday be bright, and nicer than ever before... and as years come and go may your happiness grow and your dreams be fulfilled even more.



*December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Frank & Bobbi  
Kingery*

**Prayer Requests**  
Continued prayers for our shut-ins:  
Dorothy Irwin  
Gladys Woolverton.

**For those having treatments for medical conditions:**  
Virginia Campbell  
Penny Gordy  
Quina Helton  
Stephanie Johnson  
Susan Riggert  
Yvonne Schroeder  
Jo Swick  
Jean Wedel  
Leroy Wetzel

**For all those who are serving in Armed Forces, including:**  
Matthew Gathmann  
Tony Gross  
Kyle Martin  
Scott Millsap  
Edmund Parker  
Tim Williams.

**Dec. 1**  
A J Hussong

**Dec. 6**  
Victoria Hall  
Austin Keating

**Dec. 7**  
Michael Grant

**Dec. 8**  
George Allison

**Dec. 9**  
Nicholas Heller  
Lucas Heyungs

**Dec. 10**  
Barbara Allen

**Dec. 12**  
Florence Beck  
Beth Covington

**Dec. 13**  
Billie Radebaugh

**Dec. 16**  
Phyllis Phillips  
Gayle Patrem  
Kayla Patrem

**Dec. 19**  
Donald Smitley

**Dec. 20**  
Steve Williams

**Dec. 23**  
Jim Glenn

**Dec. 24**  
Karen Buescher  
Kyle Jeisy

**Dec. 25**  
Dennis Gathmann

**Dec. 26**  
Brandon Barta

**Dec. 27**  
George Stone

**Dec. 28**  
Grace Warner

**Dec. 29**  
Carol Ann Parker

**Dec. 30**  
Kristofer Heller

**Dec. 31**  
Eric Bollinger  
Betty Hovious

## Flowers for 2012

Would you like to provide flowers one Sunday for the sanctuary during the year 2012?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Special Date \_\_\_\_\_

Second choice/special date \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of / In Memory of (circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want the church to order the flowers and charge to you? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like the flowers delivered to shut-ins following worship? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.  
Ruth Circle 9:30 a.m.

**Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

Service 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Second Service 10:30 a.m.  
Children's program  
SMS 2:00 p.m.

Barbershoppers Concert 7:00 p.m.

**Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**

Alzheimer's support group 1:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**

MS 12:00 p.m.  
Mission committee meets 6:00 p.m.  
Worship committee meets 6:00 p.m.  
Barbershoppers 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**

Kids' Club 5:30 p.m.

**Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.  
Mystery Book Club 6:00 p.m.  
Bible 101 class 6:30 p.m.

**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

Service 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Second Service 10:30 a.m.  
Pre-pack food pantry 1:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

Retired Teachers' Luncheon 2:00 p.m.  
Circles Christmas party 4:00 p.m.  
Barbershoppers 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

Kids' Club 5:30 p.m.

**Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.  
Low Vision 10:30 a.m.  
MDA 6:00 p.m.  
Bible 101 class 6:30 p.m.

**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

Service 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Second Service 10:30 a.m. Cantata  
Open House Musical presentation

**Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**

Alzheimer's support 1:00 p.m.  
Deacons 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**

PEO meets at 9:00 a.m..  
B & G meet at 5:00 p.m.  
Barbershoppers meet at 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**

No Kids' Club

**Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.  
Bible 101 class 6:30 p.m.

**Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Live Nativity at Peterson Park  
6:00 p.m.

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
Christmas Eve Service**

7:00 & 10:00 p.m.

**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
Christmas Day**

9:30 a.m. service only

**Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

Church Office closed

**Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**

Barbershoppers meet at 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**

No Kids' Club

**Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup>**

Bible Study

**Advent Events****Second Sunday – December 4<sup>th</sup>**

Children's Christmas Program  
(10:30)  
Dime Time Offering  
Barbershoppers Concert  
7:00 p.m.

**Third Sunday – December 11<sup>th</sup>**

Special music by Vance Bollinger

**Fourth Sunday – December 18<sup>th</sup>**

Choir Cantata (10:30)  
Open House & Choir Cantata  
(2:00)

**December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Peterson Park Nativity Scene  
6:00-8:00 p.m.

**December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve**

Special music  
by Rebekah Woolverton

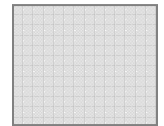
**December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day**

One service at 10:30 a.m.  
Special music  
by Rebekah Woolverton





**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**  
10 Charleston Ave.  
Mattoon, IL 61938



Return service requested



***THE FIRST ALERT***