

# *The Disciple Harbinger*



On November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011, another season of Advent will begin. Already we see Christmas items displayed in our local stores. And we do have need to prepare for the time we spend with family and friends.

Yet, do we prepare for the birth of the Christ-child? Advent does mean preparation. John the Baptist also told us to prepare the way for His coming.

So, how do we prepare? There are books available to guide our meditation. One of these is available in the back of our sanctuary. Another way might be to read from the Bible. Yet another way might be to meditate upon the question; "What does Jesus mean to me?" Another way to think about this is to ask yourself how you would explain Jesus, and how He relates to your life, to someone who does not know Him.

Advent is a time of preparing ourselves that we might know Jesus more intimately.  
How will you prepare?  
May the love of Christ be with you.

**In Christ,  
Pastor Sharon**

**CHURCH'S VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT**

*Serving and Growing through Christ*

**S.C.**

## Disciples of Christ History

### Mission Work

The period following the Civil War in the United States brought many changes. One such change was the recognition we needed more cooperation between churches within the context of Missions.

One effort to organize mission work for the denomination was a complete failure. Collecting money for mission work at the local, district, state, and national levels resulted in little money for anyone to provide mission work.

At that time, a small but powerful group of Disciples insisted missions belonged only at the local level of our church.

*(Continued next month.....)*

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### Mary's Faith

*What if God had searched the land  
Yet couldn't find a one  
So pure in heart and strong in faith  
To carry His Holy son?  
If there hadn't been a Mary  
Willing to do His will  
We'd be groping in the darkness  
Dying for a Savior still.  
I thank God for Mary's faith  
And the sacrifice she made  
If any of us had been there  
Could we have been so brave?  
If I could choose one gift this year  
It wouldn't be under the tree  
It would be that the faith of Mary  
Could be the faith of me.*

*~ Marci Jo Ferguson ~  
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## WEEKLY CALENDAR

Children's Church - Sunday - 9:30 a.m.

Worship - Sunday - 9:30 a.m.

Bible Study – Monday – 6:30 p.m.

Choir – Thursday – 5:30 p.m.

### PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

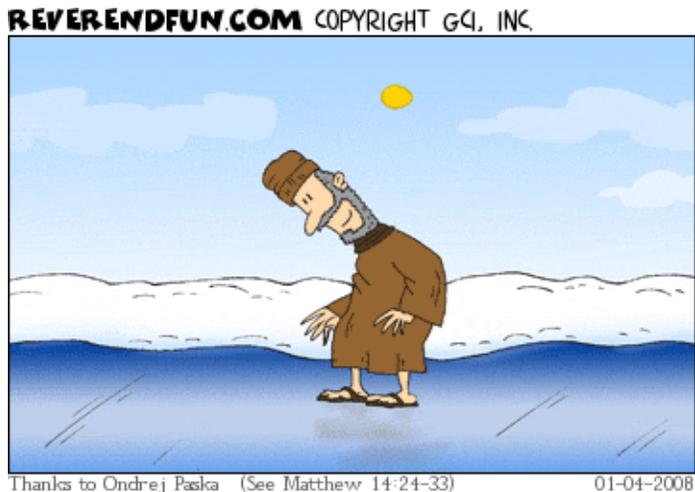
Due to recent troubling events in the area, the board has adopted a new policy concerning our children. If a child should go missing from an event held here, CALL 911 as you begin searching – & make the call from a CHURCH PHONE. We hope it is never necessary, but feel it's best to have a plan in place.

### WILL YOU HELP?

Items are again needed for the *Pathways Teen Program*. A box is provided in the back of the sanctuary for collecting. Items needed are shampoo, detergent, razors, and feminine hygiene products. Both males and females are in the program.

### POCKET CHANGE MESSAGE

Our Pocket Change will be going to The Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program during November & December.



PETER FINDS HIS FAITH TO BE MUCH STRONGER IN THE WINTER  
(OPEN TO ALL)

The next Board of Elders Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. Please have **all reports** into the office **no later than Tuesday, the 6th**. Thank you.

*(Please note this date has been changed from the 14<sup>th</sup>.)*

### NEXT HAPPENINGS

The next **Harbinger** will be emailed/mailed by Thursday, December 22, 2011. Please have all items into the office **no later than Monday, the 19th**. Thank you.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OUTREACH

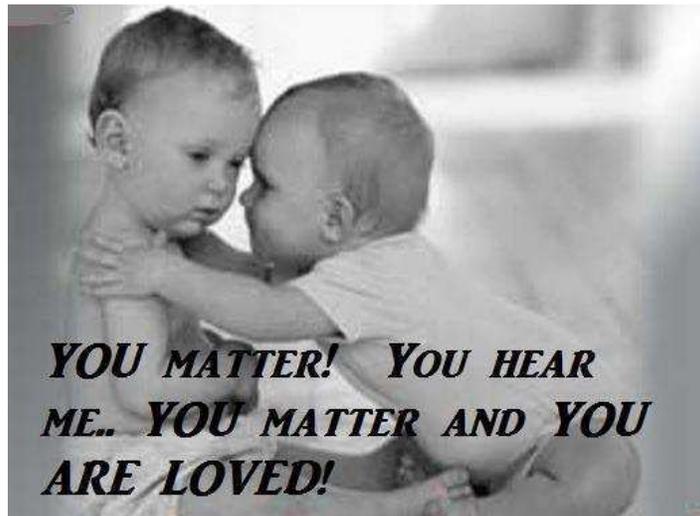
**Soup Stop** Help is needed every Thursday from 10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. – 2 or 3 people are needed – if you'd like to help, please call the church office.

SKIN-TO-SKIN COMMUNION NURSERY

If you or someone you know will not be able to be in church and would like to receive communion, please call the church office at **345-3003**. If no answer, please leave a message on the voice mail that you would like to receive communion. It is always done the first Sunday of each month.

Coffee/Juice Fellowship

The Congregational Life Committee is in charge of the coffee/juice fellowship for the month of December.



SERVING THE LORD FOR DECEMBER

WORSHIP LEADERS

4 – Patty Maples  
11 – Tricia Briggerman

ELDERS

Patty Maples & Stan Huffman  
Jan Ernst & Tarry James

18 – Mike Chron  
25 –Kevin James

Kaye Woodward & Stan Huffman  
Cindy Maples & Vicki Trueblood

DELEGATES FOR DECEMBER

SECRET

Kevin James  
Mike Chron  
Nancy Oakley

PRESBYTER

Kevin James

GRANDSTANDS & AIDERS

Mike Chron  
Nancy Oakley  
Kristyn Haworth, Emily Zuniga  
Joey Upton, Kim Steffes

ELDER OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER

The church has begun an Elder of Month program. If at any time, you are in need and are unable to get in touch with the office, or Pastor Sharon is unavailable, the Elder of the Month may be called. For the **month of December, 2011**, the Elder of the Month is Vicki Trueblood - 345-7244 (home) or 649-6449 (cell).



BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY UPDATES

*(If your birthday or anniversary dates are not mentioned, please let the office know.)*

DECEMBER 2011 BIRTHDAYS



8 Chase Staggs

DECEMBER 2011 ANNIVERSARIES

- 17 Bill & Laurie Olson
- 23 Doug & Kelly Bacon
- 28 Bob & Kathy Zuniga



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09-24-2010

**Dates To Remember**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
DECEMBER

1---5:30 pm	Choir
4---9:30 am	Worship/Children's Church
5---6:30 pm	Bible Study
7---6:30 pm	Board Meeting
8---5:30 pm	Choir
11---9:30 am	Worship/Children's Christmas program
12---6:30 pm	Bible Study
15---5:30 pm	Choir
18---9:30 pm	Choir Cantata/Children's Church
18---4:00 pm	Cougill Manor
19---6:30 pm	Bible Study
22---5:30 pm	Choir
24---10:00 am	Christmas Eve Worship
25---9:30 am	Worship/Children's Church



***MERRY CHRISTMAS!***

*Holy Humor*

*(cause God likes to hear you laugh!!)*

*(Taken from [www.signsandsonnets.org](http://www.signsandsonnets.org) - unless otherwise noted)*



### E-MAIL BLUNDER

An Illinois man left the snow-filled streets of Chicago for a vacation in Florida. His wife was on a business trip and was planning to meet him there the next day. When he reached his hotel, he decided to send his wife a quick e-mail. Unfortunately, he missed one letter in the e-mail address, and his note was directed instead to an elderly preacher's wife, whose husband had passed away only the day before. When the grieving widow checked her e-mail, she let out a piercing scream and fell to the floor in a dead faint. Her family rushed into the room and saw this note on the screen: "Dearest Wife, Just got checked in. Everything prepared for your arrival tomorrow. PS. Sure is hot down here!"

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### RIDDLES

Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married?

A. Ruthless.

Q. What do they call pastors in Germany?

A. German Shepherds.

Q. Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?

A. Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.

Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A. Samson. He brought the house down.

Q. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?

A. "Your mother ate us out of house and home!"

Q. Which area of Palestine was especially wealthy?

A. The area around Jordan. The banks were always overflowing.

Q. Who is the greatest baby sitter mentioned in the Bible?

A. David. He rocked Goliath to a very deep sleep.

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FORBIDDEN FRUITS  
CREATE  
MANY JAMS

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*Serving and Growing through Christ*

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**OLD STATE ROAD CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

13982 Old State Road  
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217-345-3003

[pastorsharon@consolidated.net](mailto:pastorsharon@consolidated.net)

[www.disciplesofchrist.org](http://www.disciplesofchrist.org)

*Rev. Sharon Patton, Pastor -217-345-2003 (home)*

*Vicki Trueblood, Facilitator – 217-345-7244*

*Marci Jo Ferguson – Secretary*

**Join us every Sunday for Worship at 9:30 a.m.**

**Children's Church during Worship 9:30 a.m.**

**Office hours are – Tuesday – Friday, 9-3**