



HERALD OF HOPE

December, 2011

REFLECTIONS

Sitting in the sanctuary, alone, silent, and with my thoughts. Sitting by oneself in an empty sanctuary can be a haunting experience or a tremendously rich and healing occasion. I hear the popping contractions of the roof being warmed by the sunshine as I wait for seekers of the sacrament. The bread is broken; the cup is full on this Christmas Eve afternoon. I have done this for many years, offering a time of Holy Communion, without the carols or readings or sermons. I've found that the sacrament can stand on its own. It doesn't need any help. This place of worship is just a building, with wood and stone and mortar, but I recall what has happened here, what does happen here, and I become a creature of awe. What a gift to be here right now, by myself. Churches are only as sacred as they are defined by the activity of God. If not for that activity they may not look much different than my basement. I am glad it looks different. I need sanctuary. I need a sanctuary. In a world where violence, greed, and hostility are so easy, my soul seeks respite. It is here that hope is restored, peace is served, and I am reminded why I am, who I am, and what I am. I find that it is easy to forget those things and become a part of the problem instead of a solution. Christmas Eve is a call to be a part of the solution, to work towards building the Kingdom of God on earth. It is a daunting and discouraging call but God continues to seek workers for the vineyard who are undeterred by the heat, the tedium, the volume of grapes to be picked. Your back will hurt if you accept the call. But the wine that is produced will be sweet and a great reward at the end of the day. I will be honored to join you in the field in 2012.

Grace & Peace,
Jay

BAPTISM CELEBRATIONS

Evelyn Meyer	Jan. 1931
Ken Bade	1-05-64
Michelle Smith	1-07-07
Nolan Pannier	1-08-06
Jesse Joiner	1-09-67
Lilia Herman	1-10-10
Violet Herman	1-10-10
Anja VanUffelen	1-10-10
Katelyn Carter	1-11-98
Heather Hauss	1-11-98
Wayne Lindauer	1-12-64
Emmeline Herman	1-12-03
Don Steinkamp	1-16-38
Aidan Lougeay	1-18-04
Delayni Davinroy	1-18-09
Lena Mae Gamblin	1-20-80
Bill Gamblin	1-20-80
Charlye French	1-20-80
Jordon Douglas	1-24-99

LECTIONARY FOR JANUARY

January 8

Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 15

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 22

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

January 29

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

NOTES FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

2012 Offering Envelopes are now located in the Wilkinson Giving Room. If you were not issued a box of envelopes but would like some, please contact the church office. You do not have to be a member to use the envelopes.

2011 Financial Giving Statements will not be mailed this year. They will be available in the Wilkinson Giving Room the end of January. You can pick your statement up on Sunday or stop by the church office during the week.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

This year the Altar Committee made a decision to donate the Christmas memorials to the Kids for Christ program at Abraham Lincoln School in Belleville. The total in memorials received was \$445.00.

\$325 -- Kids for Christ

\$ 20 -- Altar Fund

\$100 -- Building Fund

Thank you for helping with this special gift at Christmas.

ANNUAL

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29TH

(Immediately following 10:30A worship)

REMINDER

CONSISTORY REPRESENTATIVES AND MINISTRY CHAIRPERSONS

Articles for the 2012 Annual Report are due in the Church Office by Wednesday, January 4, 2012. This year we would like to include our fundraisers – Rummage Sale and Christmas Bazaar.

**30 Minute Informal
Devotional Service
6:30p.m. – Wednesdays!**

COMING EVENTS AT HOPE

January 4..... Annual Reports Due
January 8..... Mosaic Baby Bottle
 Ministry Begins
January 9..... Senior Fellowship, 7P
January 16..... Senior Singles' Lunch
January 21..... Family Feud, 6P
January 24..... MOPS at Hope Church
January 26..... Hope Book Club
 Hope Blood Drive
January 29..... Congregational Meeting
 (following the worship service)

SENIOR SINGLES LUNCHEON

Monday, January 16
11:30AM

MOPS AT HOPE CHURCH

Tuesday, January 24
6:30PM

HOPE CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, January 26
3-6P

Donors, Volunteers, Pies and
Sandwiches are needed!
Please watch for sign-up sheets.

HOPE CHURCH BOOK CLUB

Thursday, January 26th – 10:30A
“Secret Daughter”
By Shilipi Somaya Gowda

*We make a living by what we get. We
make a life by what we give.*

Winston Churchill

“FAMILY FEUD”

Saturday, January 21 at 5:30p.m.

All adults are invited to attend our annual “Family Feud”. We will gather on Saturday, January 21 at 5:30p.m. in the Miller Fellowship Hall. Please bring an appetizer to share! RSVP – Larry & Karen Mueller 234-2457. It is very **IMPORTANT** that you let Larry and Karen know that you plan to attend. Thanks.

WELCOME TO HOPE CHURCH

On Sunday, November 6, 2011 the following new members were welcomed into the Hope Church family:

Chuck Johnson
Ted and Henri Lawrence
Scottie Thompson

GETTING ACQUAINTED

Ted and Henri Lawrence moved to Belleville In 2001 when they retired. Ted was born and raised in Connecticut. He went to college in Sioux Falls, SD. He has lived in Connecticut, (Chicago) Illinois, and Minnesota for 32 years before moving to Belleville. He worked as a child protection social worker and prison social worker. Henri was born and raised in Chicago. She lived in Sioux Falls, SD, Connecticut and Minnesota. Henri was a medical transcriptionist. Ted likes Sudoku, mission work and watching sports. Henri likes to refinish antiques, crafts, needlepoint and garage sales. Ted and Henri are happy with the friendliness of Hope Church and want to be a part of this church. We hope to give to our church as much as we get from this church. Bob Ripley is Ted and Henri's undershepherd.

Chuck Johnson lives in Belleville. He is retired from Lucent Technologies. He likes fishing, camping and woodworking. Chuck's undershepherd is Darwin Stephens.

Adonai International Ministries - Duane and Leslie Ficker – Canilla, Guatemala

They are an independent Christian ministry dedicated to spreading the Gospel through the use of medicine, aviation and agricultural projects. They are currently located in the rural area of Guatemala in Central America. If you search [Adonai International Ministries](http://adonaiinternationalministries.blogspot.com/) and click on the link it will take you right to Duane and Leslie's site. It is extensive and can fill you in on what they have been up to on a daily and monthly basis.

<http://adonaiinternationalministries.blogspot.com/>

Contact Information: fickerfam@gmail.com

*Duane and Leslie Ficker
Canilla, El Quiche 14014
Guatemala, CA*

*AIM
PO Box 337
Marine, IL 62061*

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN – 2012

Please pick up a baby bottle in the Welcome Center on Sunday, January 8. Please keep it the entire month of January, filling it with checks, bills and coins. This will greatly support Mosaic Pregnancy & Health Centers as they reach out to women, men, and their unborn babies with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY...

NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, November 6, 2011, we welcomed four new members into our Hope Church family:

Chuck Johnson

Ted and Henri Lawrence

Scottie Thompson

SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to:

- **Bill Blackburn and Trina Hernandez** and their families in the loss of their sister **Debbie Reynolds** on December 21, 2011.
- The family and friends of **Vivian Fox**, our Hope Church member, who passed away Friday, December 23, 2011.
- **Jake Pruitt** and his family in the loss of his mother on December 24, 2011.

THANK YOU

Dear Hope Church:

Thanks again for your prayers during my recent surgery. I really appreciate it. Thanks also to the "Manna Ministry". It was great!

Sincerely – Priscilla Russell

Dear Hope Church Family:

Thank you for the Christmas bag of goodies. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

God Bless - Ginny Mueller

Special thanks to Pastor Jay who brought me communion and the Hope Ladies who filled a bag of goodies for me. I'll stay off the scale for a while now! "Hope Church", what a wonderful place to be a part of. Thanks again.

Love and God Bless - Doris Grandcolas

*On behalf of myself, Ellen, and Eric Rhein and family, we want to thank everyone at Hope Church. The memorial service by Pastor Krumeich and beautiful poem sent by Pastor Carol in the program were perfect. Thanks, also, to the kitchen crew and Hope people who brought cakes and desserts, and to the Hope Church office people, Bonnie and Gerry, for their help and food for Ellen and me. Thanks to Judy and Sonja for making the memory picture board and display of Bobbie's handiwork. Lastly thanks to the many, many church members and friends of our family for their generous memorials to the Building Fund and other church activities.
Thanks again - **Art Rhein and Family***

Dear People of Hope Church:

*Thanks for all the prayers and phone calls. I love the family of Hope Church. All of our families make up one big "family" at Hope. Hope everyone had a great Christmas.
Love – **Ellen Rhein***

***The Missions Committee** would like to thank you for supporting several of our Christmas projects at Hope. We were able to help six children with presents and a gift card to Shop' N Save for their family. We were able to give goodies to several of our members who are in care centers or not able to get out of their homes this Christmas. Many Christmas cards were sent to our shut-ins and members in the military. Thanks for opening your hearts to all of our Hope Family.*

Dear Hope Church Family

*I want to thank Pastor Jay for bringing me communion and the Hope Church family for the stocking full of goodies. It really made my day!
Merry Christmas to all of you and God Bless. – **Mae Etling***

MEMORIALS

During the past month the following gifts were received in memory/honor of:

Bobbie Rhein

By: Jack & Evelyn Schmitt

Peggy Ann Backs

By: Linda Ponsler

Shirley Dahm

By: Hope Senior Fellowship

Willard Allen

By: Jack & Evelyn Schmitt

Peg Spinner

By: Doris Grandcolas

Harold Vogt

By Fred & Kathy Bruss

Frieda Vogt

By: Fred & Kathy Bruss