



# *Tower Topics*

*The monthly Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Mansfield, PA*

December 2011 - Vol. XXXVIII #11

Rev. Steven C Case

<http://www.firstbaptistchurchmansfield.com>

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## *'Tis the Season to Remember*

There is a commercial on television now in which the sponsor tries to get us to purchase some "golden memories." These memories are musical selections performed by recording stars of years gone by. They sing "The Songs of Christmas." I like this commercial, not because the music is soothing, but because of the scenery. The setting is in the 1950's with the snow coming down ever so nicely. I remember growing up there was not any question as to whether we would have snow for Christmas. We always did, now matter where we lived. Coming out of the church on Christmas Eve and finding it snowing just puts me in such a great frame of mind - in fact it still does.

Charles Dickens once wrote concerning Christmas that, "It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty founder was a child himself." Over the years I have heard people say that Christmas is for children. Well maybe it is if we think solely about the gift giving and forget about the child that was born many years ago in a tiny little stable in Bethlehem. If we remember this fact then Christmas is not for just little children but for us "big children" too.

Throughout the year we here at FBC have spent a whole year remembering years gone by. Most of the memories were pleasant and we laughed. Some however were sad and we cried. Each of us has within our own minds memories of Christmases that have come and gone. Time shared with parents and siblings. Time spent in church services of plays, each in their own way telling the true story of Christmas. As we celebrate our 168th Christmas as a church, let us give thanks for the times spent together over the years, for all of the Christmas programs that we have participated in and, above all, the reason we spend so much time getting ready for supposedly one day out of the year.

William Parks in the old Missions Magazine wrote the following concerning Christmas: "Christmas is not just a day, an event to be observed and speedily forgotten. It is a spirit which should permeate every part of our lives. To believe in the spirit of Christmas does change lives and to labor for the realization of its coming to all people is the essence of our faith in Christ."

***Have a Most Blessed Christmas - SHALOM***

***Pastor Steve***

## ***Report of Seeds of Hope Partners***

***By Sylvia Sumner***



Seeds of Hope Partners started out as a group to help children remain in their own families. We did this by building beds and providing the necessary bedding. We still do this. Look in the church basement to see all the bedding down there or ask Sue.

We are also able to help the elderly. Last month we were asked if we could provide 2 hot water tanks for two different folks. One person also needed a lot of other appliances it was discovered. The one person also needed a major clean-up before anything could be delivered. Volunteers helped at one place the first Saturday in October. Rose Benson and I helped on another Saturday. There was another clean-up scheduled. I don't know if that took place as that was the day it snowed.

Also we are in the process of getting a different building for storage. The County had a greenhouse project at one time. That building is no longer used as such. The lower walls are in good shape. The greenhouse part is being removed by the Probation Department. They want it. We will complete the walls and the roof. Hopefully then all the bedding can then be stored there also.

## ***Mansfield Area Food Pantry***

***By Rose Benson***



The Mansfield Area Food Pantry is located at 771 Lambs Creek Road next to Kingdom Company. It serves an area bounded on the north by Lawrenceville, south Liberty, east Mainesburg, and west by Millerton. Charleston families may come to the pantry once each month on Wednesday's 9-noon and receive enough food for five days for their family.

In the summer months fresh produce is available from local gardeners who donate their excess. In addition a senior box is available to those seniors who qualify from the federal government. We are able to buy food at reduced prices at the Central PA Food Bank and we receive baked goods from Wal-mart and Holesum bread. Donations from churches and individuals along with a small grant help to buy food. We are currently serving 65 families each week. In November each family will be given a roasting chicken for Thanksgiving.

**The staff of the Food Pantry thanks First Baptist  
for your continued support**

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering  
RMMO *connects generations*



remember with **LOVE**  
give with **GRATITUDE**

“For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.” Remember with **LOVE**—Give with **GRATITUDE**

On Sunday, December 4, 2011, our congregation will begin receiving the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO)

The RMMO is an annual ABCUSA offering that provides (1) “Thank you” checks to more than 3,000 retired American Baptist ministers and missionaries or their widowed spouses, based on 20 or more years of ABC service, and (2) emergency and other financial assistance based on need.

***DOES YOUR GIFT MAKE A DIFFERENCE?*** Indeed it does! Sophia Stephenson, along with more than 3,000 other retired ministers and missionaries or their widowed spouses, received a “Thank You” check from the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO). Sophia shared this note, “Thank you so much for the ‘Thank You’ check! It was a Godsend to help with the many medical bills this year.”

Our 2011 goal is \$600.00.

***PLEASE HELP US REMEMBER THEM WITH LOVE AND GIVE WITH GRATITUDE.***

*Thank You:  
The FBC Board of Mission*

# *Prayer List*

Prema Junius, patient at Arnot Ogden,  
Iris Berguson, patient at Robert Packer,  
Joshua Baker, 7 year old with brain Cancer,  
Walter Joiner & Yvonne Zimmer, Susan Bogart,  
Richard Smith ( Mary Webster's son-in-law),  
Jasmine Williams (4 year old with Cancer),  
college students, shut-ins, those in our Armed Forces, especiall  
Billy Rathbun serving in Afghanistan, and many unspoken requests.

## *Shut-Ins*

Iris Berguson, Evelyn Henninger, Omer & Betty Sumner, Gladys Seaborn (Country Terrace)



## **December 2011 - *Tentative Preaching Schedule***

### **4th “*Amid Everything Else, Hope*”**

Psalm 85 1-3, 8-13, 2 Peter 3:8-15, Mark 1:1-8

### **11th “*What Are We waiting For?*”**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, I Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

### **18th “*Christmas Choral*”**

Luke 1:46-55, 2 Samuel 7:1-11, Romans 16:25-27

### **24th *Christmas Eve - “Christmas Misunderstood”***

\* Luke 2:1-20, Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14

### **25th *Christmas Day - “Homeless”***

\*John 1:1-14, Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-4

\* **Sermon Text**

# Financial Summary for October

Total gifts received for operational expenses - \$5,850.58 (five Sundays)  
weekly average - \$1,170.12

Total expenses for October excluding mission outreach - 8,540.41 weekly average - 1,708.08

Operational expenses for the month exceeded our income by 2,689.83

*Mansfield University Music Department Presents*

## ***The Annual Holiday Choral Concert***

Tis' the Season!

Our annual holiday choral concert is right around the corner! Mansfield University choral ensembles, under the direction of Peggy Dettwiler, will be performing on December 2nd, 3rd and 4th at 7:30pm. This years concert follows a "Winter Wonderland" theme featuring men's, women's and mixed choirs singing from a wide repertoire of Renaissance and Contemporary classics as well as familiar carols including audience participation. Please join us for an evening of singing and holiday spirit!

Come See our Own Derek Gracey in this concert!

Adults \$10 Seniors \$8 Students/Children \$5 MU I.D. \$Free

December 2nd Tickets

December 3rd Tickets

December 4th Tickets

The concert will be located in Steadman Theatre

Sixth Annual Christmas Tea

December 17, 2011

1:00 p.m.

At the Home of Rev. Steven & Diane Case

50 North Hill Terrace

Mansfield, PA

Along with the delicious food and tea there will be additional surprises

Please RSVP to Diane by December 14th

# *American Baptist Women*

The American Baptist Women met on November 19th and enjoyed a lovely early lunch of soup prepared by Nancy Becker and Diane Case. Each of the ladies present brought a quart of soup to put in the freezer for anyone who is in need. Let someone know if you are aware of anyone in the community that could use soup.

December is a very busy time for everyone and especially for the women of our church.

Dorothy Smith expects to have the Christmas Stockings soon for needy children in the area.

All of the ladies are asked to bring items to our ABW get-together on December 17th as we make Christmas baskets for our shut-ins and caregivers. Please bring homemade cookies, fruit (Clementines, grapes, raisins, apples), nuts (in packages if possible) and Christmas candies. We will be doing up the baskets at 10:00. If you can deliver a basket, please let Sue Wilber know by that date. There will be no meeting that day just packing the baskets.

At the gathering on December 17th at 10:00 we will be gathering all of the items for our two needy families. A list has been provided in the Annex for you to sign up as to what you can bring. Please sign up and please let us know what you are bringing and your name. A partial list of items needed is provided below! Also feel free to bring canned items of food for the families, laundry detergent, toilet paper and tissues, etc..

## **Items needed for family #1**

### **Mom, Dad & 2 boys age 2 & 4**

Boy age 2: Size 5 shoes with Velcro, socks, coat size 3, and "The Mummy Movie" (they have a DVD player and a VCR) He likes "Toy Story", "Cars", and "Thomas the Tank" and his favorite colors are red and blue.

Boy age 4: Shoes size 9-10, underwear 4T, socks, balls, cars and board books. He likes "Toy Story" and "Cars" and his favorite colors are red and blue.

Mom: Size 14 slacks, or black jeans, cupcake pans, reusable tins, Category 7 DVD's, and Bra size 34 B

Dad: Pants 29x32 long, Size 9 black shoes with Velcro, high tube socks

## **Items needed for family #2**

### **Mom and 2 boys age 2 and 10 months**

Boy age 2: Pants 2T-3T, shoes size 7, Elmo Toys, cars, trucks, books, educational toys about colors, numbers or ABC tricycle.

Boy 10 months: pants & shirts 6-9 months, shoes size 3, diapers size 3, crib sheets or bed set (loves Tigger and orange), educational toys, ride sit and stand toys.

Mom: Pants size 18 needs blue jeans, hat/mittens (pink & black), books by Danielle Steel or Dean Koontz, crossword puzzle books and pots and pans.

# Fellowship List for December 2011

Please check the list below for your name.

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled week, **please find a replacement.** Thank you for your help!

## December 4

**Main Street Greeter:** Nancy Dart  
**Sherwood Street Greeter:** Bruce Dart  
**Ushers:** Fran Garrison & Branda Rumsey  
**Hosts:** Jim & Miriam Cummings  
**Lay Reader:** Nancy Dart

## December 11

**Main Street Greeter:** Mary Ann Walker  
**Sherwood Street Greeter:** Sylvia Sumner  
**Ushers:** Fran Garrison & Brenda Rumsey  
**Hosts:** Ben & Anne Nevin  
**Lay Reader:** Richard Becker

## December 18

**Main Street Greeter:** Bob Smith  
**Sherwood Street Greeter:** Richard Becker  
**Ushers:** Fran Garrison & Brenda Rumsey  
**Hosts:** Richard & Nancy Becker  
**Lay Reader:** Bruce Dart

## December 25

**Main Street Greeter:** David Garrison  
**Sherwood Street Greeter:** Rob Garrison  
**Ushers:** Fran Garrison & Brenda Rumsey  
**Hosts:** Mary Ann Walker & Diane Case  
**Lay Reader:** Mary Ann Walker

## January 1

**Main Street Greeter:** Dorothy Smith  
**Sherwood Street Greeter:** Sue Wilber  
**Ushers:** Richard & Nancy Becker  
**Hosts:** Lee & Mary Ellen Hoar  
**Lay Reader:** Lee Hoar

*December  
Birthdays &  
Anniversaries*

3 - Nancy Dart  
9 - Martha Whitfield  
15 - Sylvia Sumner & Ben B. Nevin  
16 - Judy Bott  
25 - Doug & Ellen Dart (A)

**Please visit our website to see our calendar!**

<http://www.firstbaptistchurchmansfield.com/calendar.htm>

*First Baptist Church of Mansfield, PA*  
*North Main & Sherwood Streets*

*Sunday Morning Worship is at 11:00*  
*Holy Communion is observed the first Sunday of the month*