



# *Tower Topics*

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

January 2012 - Vol. XXXIX #1

Rev. Steven C Case

<http://www.firstbaptistchurchmansfield.com>

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All too soon 2011 will be a memory. Whether a fond or haughty one depends on how you felt about 2011. Many people I know are pleased to see 2011 fade into history because of sicknesses and death within their families. For them and many others 2012 offers a new start.

One of the assurances we have been given by Jesus is that our old self is put away and a new one begins as we believe in Him as our Lord and Savior. Historically, many people make a resolution list of things they want to do different in the coming New Year. Each New Year brings a new hope for each of us. New hope for:

A healthy year

Happiness

Love

Changes in personality

A deeper commitment to Jesus Christ and His church

This last one is nothing new for many people. They envision and truly want to have a deeper commitment, but all too often they fall short of their goal. There soon develops the same old reasons why I just cannot commit myself to my Lord and His church the way I would like to.

The marvelous aspect about a New Year is that it affords each person an opportunity for a new beginning. Begin the New Year with us here at First Baptist Church. Celebrate the love Jesus Christ has for you all year—every year. Remember the promises you made to Jesus when you accepted Him as your Lord and Savior.

I wish for each of you a year filled with love, good health, peace and the commitment you really want to have for your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His church.

*SHALOM*

*Pastor Steve*



## Christmas Choral Presentation December 18, 2011

The church choirs helped celebrate the “Birth of Christ” by doing a variety of music on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The choir sang “O, Little Town of Bethlehem”, “Joy to the World!” and “Go, Tell it on the Mountain”. Tyler Wetherbee dazzled us with a selection of Christmas hymns on the piano. The Handbell choir played : ”The Friendly Beast”, “Silent Night”, and “O Come, All Ye Faithful”. Finally Derek Gracey treated us to “O Holy Night”.

## A Thank You Note From Prema Junius

Dear Church Family:

Thank you for the love, prayers, cards, flowers and visits; I'm very grateful to have such a wonderful church family.

With Much Love,  
Prema Junius

*Please note that Prema along with her niece and nephew will be spending the Christmas break in Phoenix Arizona with Prema's sister Diana. She will be resuming her teaching duties at Mansfield University when the Spring semester starts in January.*





## Meet Cliff Wiles

*Left: Cliff with wife Marilyn Wiles*

Cliff Wiles was born February 2, 1960 and is the youngest of 10 children of Howard & Emma Wiles. Cliff graduated from Athens High School in 1978 and enlisted in the Coast Guard. While in the Coast Guard he received training in telecommunications. Cliff arrived in Mansfield in 1992 working

at Mansfield University in Information Technology where he met his wife Marilyn. Cliff has 3 children, Corey, Melissa and Jeremy.

Cliff has believed in Jesus since he saw the portrait of him leaning against a rock to pray with a beautiful beam of light shining down on him. Cliff's journey through life seems smooth and more humorous when he lets his spirituality guide his path. He likes to let his answers come to him along with the words that come out of his mouth. As most people do, he has moments of weakness when he tries to take control things and finds that when he does that , they usually do not work out as planned.

Cliff loves to go hunting and he tries to participate in as many sports activities as possible. He hopes to learn to enjoy fishing with family and friends. He spends a lot of time gardening and in his orchard. He looks forward to being a Grandpa some day so he has an excuse to act like a child again.

Cliff shares the following:

At the time of his Mother's death in 2001 his parents had been married 62 years. The security of a loving close knit and large family formed a value system that he strives everyday to provide for his own family. He admired the way his parents made their decisions together. His parents made sure that all their children were aware that there is a "God" that lived life honestly and worked very hard. They taught their children about Jesus and instilled a sense of fairness in each of us.

Cliff joined our church along with his wife because of the people here at First Baptist. He felt very welcomed here and feels that many of our church family have been inspirations to him. He continues to make mistakes, as we all do, and falls short of living up to his "Lord". He also feels very blessed for what God has done for him.

# ***SEEDS OF HOPE CHRISTMAS REPORT***

On December 21, 2011 Sylvia Sumner and I attended the December meeting of Seeds of Hope Partners at the Toshiba building in Wellsboro. Here is a summary of what we learned as to what Seeds of Hope has been doing to make Christmas better for families in our area.

First of all let me tell you that “God” has blessed this organization tremendously. The more money that we spend helping these families the more money comes in. Here is what the Treasurer’s report stated for November up to December 21st.

Beginning Balance: \$7,005.55  
Receipts \$ 7,328.75  
Disbursements \$ 7, 329.75 of which  
\$5,315.81 was for Christmas expenses.  
Total funds at the end of this period was \$7,004.55

Please note that there was a \$1.00 difference from the beginning balance to the ending balance.” God is good!”

The SOHP gifts that were provided were as follows:

90 children and families were helped through SOHP of which  
6 big bicycles were purchased  
18 winter coats  
10 Ingredients for Christmas meals  
22 pair of winter boots  
86 pairs of hats, scarf, mittens and gloves

Of the 90 families 60 would not have had any Christmas without our help  
30 children from NIPPUM were given hats, scarves, mittens or gloves along with a trip to the movies.  
We also helped with a homeless family in Tioga County with clothing.

At the meeting on Wednesday night we found out that some mental health patients in Tioga County would not have any Christmas presents under the tree. Sylvia and I along with Rosalie Connelly from the Methodist Church met on Thursday afternoon at Wal-mart to purchase \$10.00 worth of gifts for them. We spent over \$400.00 so that these folks would have a gift for Christmas.

Just because we seem to have money coming in all the time does not mean that we should stop giving. This organization is helping our brothers and sisters in our county in a variety of ways. We help with food, clothing, bedding, furniture, mentoring students, and small home repairs. Volunteers are always needed as are the cash contributions that help us help them

*Thanks to all who have volunteered and contributed items to this organization.*

Sue Wilber

# *Prayer List*

Harry Hager, Joann Hagar, Joshua Baker, 7 year old with brain Cancer,  
Walter Joiner, Pamela Mortimer Chenail, Susan Bogart, Reita Boyden,  
Richard Smith ( Mary Webster's son-in-law),  
Jasmine Williams (4 year old with Cancer),  
college students, shut-ins, those in our Armed Forces,  
especially Billy Rathbun serving in Afghanistan, and many unspoken requests.

## Shut-Ins

Iris Berguson ( Patient at Broad Acres), Evelyn Henninger, Omer & Betty Sumner,  
Gladys Seaborn (Country Terrace)



## **January 2012 - Tentative Preaching Schedule**

### ***January 1st "The Children of God"***

\* Galatians 4:4-7, Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Luke 2:22-40

### ***January 8th "Seeking and Finding"***

\*Mark 2:1-12, Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12

### ***January 15th "Follow Me"***

\*John 1:43-51, I Samuel 3:1-10, I Corinthians 6:12-20

### ***January 22nd Pastor Away***

Richard Becker Speaking

Sermon Text, to be announced

### ***January 29th "Don't be a Stumbling Block"***

\*I Corinthians 8:1-13, Deuteronomy 18: 15-20, Mark 1:21-28

\* Sermon Text

# Fellowship List for January 2012

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!

## 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

## January 8

**Main Street Greeter:** Ann Aumick

**Sherwood Street Greeter:** Fran Garrison

**Ushers:** Richard & Nancy Becker

**Hosts:** Ben & Sarah Nevin

**Lay Reader:** Marilyn Wiles

## January 15

**Main Street Greeter:** Harry Hagar

**Sherwood Street Greeter:** Cliff Wiles

**Ushers:** Richard & Nancy Becker

**Hosts:** Fellowship Dinner/Annual Business Meeting  
Hosted by the Advisory Board

**Lay Reader:** TBA

## January 22

**Main Street Greeter:** Prema Junius

**Sherwood Street Greeter:** Miriam Cummings

**Ushers:** Mary Ann Walker & Sam Garrison

**Hosts:** Sylvia Sumner & Sue Wilber

**Lay Reader:** Brenda Rumsey

## January 29

**Main Street Greeter:** Mary Webster

**Sherwood Street Greeter:** Rose Benson

**Ushers:** Richard & Nancy Becker

**Hosts:** Brenda Rumsey & Judy Bott

**Lay Reader:** TBA

*January  
Birthdays &  
Anniversaries*

9 - John Whitfield  
15 - Melissa Bolt  
21 - Rock Bolt  
24 - John & Sam Garrison  
26 - Mary Ann Walker

**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*