

St. John's  
United  
Church  
Of Christ, Bem

# The Scoop!

December, 2008

"...no matter who you  
are or where you are  
on life's journey, you  
are welcome here in  
the United Church  
of Christ..."

## *From the Pastor's Keyboard...*

*"How will you celebrate?"*

*We all expect Christmas celebrations to happen a certain way, and are often disappointed when things surrounding the holidays do not turn out as we feel they should. That first Christmas did not turn out the way it should have, either. Women should not travel by donkey when they are nine months pregnant; you should not have to stay in an inn or lay a newborn baby in a manger; wise men and shepherds should not leave their busy lives to see a humble family give birth in poverty. However the newness of this event is what shaped our world so greatly; an event we still celebrate 2000 years later.*

*This year, why not do something new for Christmas? Just as Joseph and Mary opened themselves up to the transformative power of the Holy Spirit so long ago; just as the wise men and shepherds opened themselves up to a different understanding of how God works in the world; what can we do differently this year to capture the true meaning of Christmas?*

*Some possible suggestions: come caroling with the Youth Group; go caroling on your own, or with another group; invite folks over for dinner that you don't know so well, in your church, in your office, in your neighborhood; ring bells for the Salvation Army; collect canned goods for Operation Christmas; adopt a family thru Operation Christmas; send a Christmas care package or a card to one of our college students (See inside this issue of The Scoop for their addresses!); send a Christmas Care package or a card to an overseas soldier (see inside this issue of The Scoop for addresses); or go to a Christmas light show, Christmas Play, or Cantata with your family and friends.*

*What can you do that is new and different this year, to really celebrate the reason for the season?*

*-Pastor Rick*

## **St. John's United Church of Christ, Bem**

1944 Bem Church Road; Owensville, MO 65066

Phone: 573.437.3698 Parsonage: 573.437.4776

Website: [www.bemchurch.com](http://www.bemchurch.com)

Pastor: Rev. Richard Oberle

email: [rick@bemchurch.com](mailto:rick@bemchurch.com)

Secretary: Carole Dotson

email: [carole@bemchurch.com](mailto:carole@bemchurch.com)

Organist: Jamie Schultz

Custodian: Nancy Kohrmann

Cemetery Sexton: Lee Kreter

Sunday School Coordinator: Suzan Wilson

Visual Coordinators: Curtis & Christina Aytes

### **THE CHRISTMAS FUND- BEM CHURCH MISSION OF THE MONTH**

For 106 years, the Christmas Fund Offering has been a way in which we, as members of the United Church of Christ and its predecessor bodies, have shown Christ's compassion and care to those who serve the church. Our generous giving to the 2007 Christmas Fund Offering enabled the Pension Boards' Ministerial Alliance Program, on behalf of the United Church of Christ, to provide \$1,571,000 to individuals and families in need.

The generous gifts of United Church of Christ Congregations and individuals to the Christmas Fund have enabled the Pension Boards' Ministerial Assistance program to provide (in 2008):

- Some form of Ministerial Assistance to over 1500 people; not just clergy, but lay workers in the church, too!
- Monthly pension supplementation to 458 people totaling \$96,265 per month
- Quarterly health premium supplementation to 280 persons, totaling \$151,601 per quarter
- Christmas Gift Checks to 900 people this Christmas, totaling \$247,500. Of those who will receive these checks, 20 are over 100 years of age; the oldest person is 106 years old!

The economic climate of the past year has exacerbated the financial stresses on those with the most limited resources. The number of requests received by the Ministerial Alliance Program this year has increased dramatically over the same period last year. Because of that, we hope that you prayerfully consider your response to the 2008 Christmas Fund offering and give to the best of your ability, in thanksgiving for the blessings you have received.

The Christmas Fund is one of the four special offerings of the United Church of Christ. Bem Church's support of these four offerings, along with our regular support of Our Church's Wider Mission, gives Bem Church the distinction of being a "5 for 5 Church." The Christmas Fund has been designated by the Mission Committee as the Bem Church Mission of the Month.

### **CROP WALK TOTALS 2008**

The CROP walk is over, the monies turned in, and the totals are here. As a community, the Owensville Area CROP walk raised \$10,130 to aid folks all over the world to meet the needs of folks less fortunate than us. This money will go a long way to help feed the hungry, quench the thirsty, and clothe the naked; God's children in need. We were thrilled this year to have increased participation from other churches in our community, most notably Owensville Christian Church, who had a good group of participants and raised quite a bit for CROP.

Bem Church had a great showing, as usual. While we did not quite reach our goal of \$5000, we came very close, raising \$4830. Only \$170 away- we will make it next year! We had approximately 55 people participate, an awesome showing. Thank you to all who made this important mission opportunity possible!

### **POINSETTAS FOR CHRISTMAS**

Bem Church will once again be adorning the Sanctuary with Poinsettias for Christmas. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, you may do so using the white envelopes in the pew racks on Sunday mornings, or by sending a check to the church office. Each plant is \$10; and be sure to note who it is in honor/memory of, as well as who it is from. Questions? Call Carole in the church office.

## **SCRIPTURES FOR DECEMBER, 2008**

These are the scripture readings and topics we will be exploring in worship during the month of December. Read ahead! It is always beneficial if you read these before Sunday morning; you will get much more out of worship that way!

### **December 7<sup>th</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent “Prepare Ye the Way of the LORD!”**

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11  
Psalter Lesson: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:1-8

### **December 14<sup>th</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent “Testifying to the Light”**

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
Psalter Lesson: Psalm 126  
Gospel Lesson: John 1:2-8, 19-28

### **December 21<sup>st</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent “Exploring the Annunciation”**

Hebrew Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16  
Psalter Lesson: Psalm 149  
Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

### **December 28<sup>th</sup>- Proclaiming Christ “Clothed in Garments of Love”**

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 61:10-62:3  
Psalter Lesson: Psalm 148  
Epistle Lesson: Galatians 4:4-7  
Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:22-38

#### **Scriptures for Christmas Eve:**

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

**Christmas Eve Services at 5:00 and 11:00**

Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 9:2-7  
Gospel Lessons: Matthew 1:18-25  
Luke 2:1-20

#### **Christmas Eve Services at Bem Church:**

**5:00pm-** Children and family themed service,  
with cookie communion and carols

**11:00pm-** Altar communion, lessons and carols,  
singing “Silent Night” by candlelight

## **HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS GATHERINGS PLANNED**

Maintaining Healthy Relationships in the church is an important part of keeping our children safe, our youth safe, and our church safe. As with anything in life, maintaining healthy relationships takes practice, effort and an intentional focus on our actions.

To this end, the Church Council and the Safety Committee will be hosting several Healthy Relationships gatherings for the membership of Bem Church. They will be at 11:30am on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>; and Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>; **and at 9:00am on Sunday, November 30.**

At these gatherings, which will be about 45 minutes long, we will discuss the importance of maintaining healthy relationships in the church. We will go over St. John’s Official Policy concerning Sexual Exploitation, Ministerial Conduct, and Youth Protection. We will also discuss standards and practices, response issues, and ask you to sign a covenant concerning your maintenance of healthy relationships in the church.

***These gatherings are for every adult in the church.*** (There will be separate gatherings for youth ages 12-18.) Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes the entire community of Bem Church to maintain a healthy environment for our children, and for our selves. These gatherings are especially important for those working with youth; but are designed for all.

Some of you may be familiar with this topic, as Pastor Hal discussed this need a few years ago. We are asking that everyone come to one of these sessions, and continue the discussion. Maintaining Healthy Relationships is not a one time effort; it is an ongoing intentional focus that we must keep in our thoughts. Questions? Ask Pastor Rick or a Church Council Member.

## **LOOK WHAT IS COMING UP AT BEM CHURCH THIS DECEMBER!**

### **ADVENT WORKSHOP**

Our annual Advent Workshop will be Sunday, November 30, right after church! Stay a while and celebrate the season with a soup supper provided by the Hospitality Committee, and then enjoy an arts and crafts workshop by the Christian Education Committee. The fun starts right after church, so stick around and have a great time!

### **PAIRS AND SPARES MEETING**

Pairs and Spares will meet after church on December 7, their usual first Sunday meeting time. They will have their annual Christmas carry-in meal, then a short meeting. All are invited to come! This is a great group; stick around and join the fellowship of Pairs and Spares!

### **CHRISTMAS CANTATA**

We have joined choirs with St. Peter's again this year, to offer a Christmas Cantata extraordinaire! Come hear them ring in the season on December 7 at 3:00pm at St. Peter's United Church of Christ. It promises to be a great event!

### **NOBBY'S CHRISTMAS DINNER**

Nobby Ota's Annual Christmas Dinner will be Sunday, December 7 from 4:00-9:00 at Farmer's Merchant Café in Owensville! This authentic Asian Dinner is Nobby's annual gift to the community, as he offers it to raise funds for The Owensville/Rosebud Ministerial Alliance. Plan on attending this great event, and helping out a worthy cause here in town!

### **SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING**

Bem Church members and friends will be ringing the bell and staffing the kettle outside of Wal-Mart on December 6, 12 and 18 to raise money for our annual drive. 85% of the SA money raised will stay in our Owensville community to help the needy; sign up today to help out!

### **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM- "Double Take"**

The children of Bem Church will offer their 2008 Christmas Program to God's glory on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm at Bem Church. Their 2008 Program, "Double Take" focuses on the two Christmas stories- the one from Matthew, and the one from Luke. It compares and contrasts these two stories in a humorous way, focusing on the reality of Christ's birth and what it is all about. Come see the show, and remember the reason for the season!

### **LINDSEY MERCER'S PLAY- "An Unexpected Holiday"**

Our own Lindsey Mercer has written and is producing a play for all ages called, "An Unexpected Holiday." This production will be offered to God's Glory on December 21<sup>st</sup>, right after the Children's Play. Come and share the experience as an ordinary Hollywood diva and her entourage find out about the true meaning of Christmas!

### **MEXICAN MEAL- FELIZ NAVIDAD!**

Come up early on December 21<sup>st</sup>; the Youth Group is cooking dinner! They will be preparing a Mexican-themed meal prior to the Christmas plays, as a fund raiser for their Mission Trips. They will be serving from 4:00-6:00 on December 21<sup>st</sup>; come on up!

### **CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP AT BEM CHURCH**

Christmas Eve Services will be **5:00pm** (children and family themed, with cookie communion) and **11:00pm** (altar communion, lessons and carols, and singing "Silent Night" by candlelight!)

**THANK YOU!**

*(Some thank you notes may be edited due to space limitations)*

**Dear Pastor Rick and my church family at St. John's,**

I just wanted to write a quick note thanking you for my special treat. I rarely receive mail since I live so far away, and this is the first time getting a package from anyone but my parents, so this was a very pleasant surprise! My roommates and I enjoyed the delightful cookies, especially the treat of homemade cookies! St. John's has always been my church family and its great to receive something like this to really feel the love from back home. Thank you for your prayers during my times of endless stress, believe me they are appreciated! I think about St. John's and everyone I have grown so close to ever the years, and you are in my thoughts and prayers daily.

Thanks again; or as we say in Hawaii, Mahalo!

**-KC Frahm**

*(KC is in college in Hawaii. She is referring to the box of Halloween goodies sent to her by the Membership Care Committee this past fall, with love from Bem Church.)*

**Bem Church Family-**

Thank you for all of your donations this past year for the Deer Hunter's Chili; for the German Meal; and for all of our fundraising and fellowship efforts. Your contributions toward these meals have helped make them wonderful times of fun and fellowship. The Deer Hunter's Chili in particular was a great time of fellowship not just within our church, but with the whole community. Thank you all for making it possible!

**-Jane Peanick, on behalf of the Fundraising Committee**

**ADDITIONS TO YOUR CHRISTMAS CARD LIST**

This year, as you send out your Christmas Cards, (or Epiphany Cards, as the case may be!) why not include our college students, studying away from home; or an overseas soldier who longs for word from home? These people would love to hear from us, and a little bit of Christmas cheer would help them feel the spirit of the season. Some addresses are listed below:

**Bem Church College Students**

Kelly Oldfather  
1031 Cherry  
Springfield, MO 65807

Lindsey Mercer  
PO Box 802  
St. Charles, MO 63302

Kolby Baker  
1020 N. Second Street,  
College Box 111  
Atchison, KS 66022

Layne Kreter  
207 W. South St.  
Warrensburg, MO 64093

KC Frahm 47-712  
Hui Kelu #9  
Kaneohe HI 96744

Clara Decker  
21460 West 121<sup>st</sup> Street  
Olathe, KS 66061

**Military Suggestions**

*(Names received from VFW Ladies Auxiliary)*

SPC Phillip J. Caleb  
Crazy Horse Troop 1/3 ACR  
FOB 2 West  
APO-AE 0935

Sgt. Daniel Soares  
Camp Delta  
APO-AE 09317

Joshua Dale Smith  
1175<sup>th</sup> MP Company  
FOB Brassfield, Mora  
APO-AE 0939

## **MORE THANK YOUS**

### **Dear Family and Friends-**

Thank you for all of your cards, your prayers, and your visits as I went through my surgeries, recoveries, and rehab stints this past year. God's presence was very evident in your care. Thank you for all your support!  
**-Don Ruffner**

### **Thank yous to the Youth Group**

Thank you so much for the basket of goodies you delivered to me. I enjoyed it a lot! It was very welcome. Thank you!  
**-Don Koepke**

I want to thank the Youth Fellowship for the gift basket. It was really appreciated!

Thank You!

**-Esther Tayloe**

A Big "Thank you" to the Youth Group for the lovely basket of goodies. We also enjoyed the visit with Judene and Andrew. We love you all!  
**-Bob & Evie Landwehr**

Thank you, Youth Fellowship, for the nice goodie basket you gave me. Thanks again!

**-Fern Kramme**

Thank you, Youth Group, for the basket of love. Your kindness warmed my heart and soul! May God bless you richly!  
**-Vi Miller**

Thank you to the Youth Group for the gift basket for Jim. He loved it, and we appreciate the church thinking of him!  
**-Connie Lickliger**

## **YOU ARE INVITED**

The Bem Church Community is invited to a special day of celebration and fun, recognizing the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Carole and Sonnie Dotson. Carole and Sonnie were married on December 27, 1958. We will be honoring this milestone anniversary on December 20, 2008! Plan now to attend this open house event at the Dotson home, December 20 from 1:00-?

## **BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH**

12/3- Hulda Eisenhauer, Heath Buschmeyer, Riley Norris; 12/4- Austin Lewis, Connor Lewis;  
12/6- Dyana Glaser, Greg Kohrmann, Amber (Crosby) Randall;  
12/7- Christina Aytes, Layne Kreter; 12/9- Allison Czeschin, Nathan Dotson;  
12/11- Carole Dotson; 12/12- Bill Eisenhauer, Jr.; 12/14- Tammi Branson;  
12/16- Brad Czeschin, Lindsey Oberle; 12/17- Alisen Chapman, Darren Wilson;  
12/19- Wayne Horstmann; Pam Koepke; 12/20- Erin West, Will Lauth;  
12/25- Brandi Lauth; 12/26- Tom Kohrmann; 12/27- Tom Dotson;  
12/28- Virginia Buschmeyer, Steve Adams Jr.; 12/29- Margaret Frahm;  
12/30- Abby Koepke, Vicki Branson;  
**...Happy Birthday!**

## **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH**

12/9- Brooke & Adam Johnson; 12/12- Margot & Hero Schmidt, Vicky & Kevin Huebner;  
12/13- Erin & Drew West; 12/21- Lois & Don Ruffner; 12/24- Mary & Bruce Chapman;  
12/26- Virginia & Wayne Buschmeyer, Jackie & Aaron Kohrmann;  
12/27- Carole & Sonnie Dotson, Jackie & Bill Mitchell; 12/29- Sharon & Dale Adkison  
**...Happy Anniversary!**

**DECEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE**

*Flowers: Bernice Stockglasner*

<b>Nursery:</b> 12/7: Tina Wnuk	<b>Greeters:</b> Ray Oldfather Family	<b>Lay Readers:</b> Courtney Shockley	<b>Acolytes:</b> Sable Huebner & Tanner Goodman
12/14: Tammy Baxter	Mal Huebner Family	Leann Smith	Kelsey Baxter & Andrew Carey
12/21: Dawn Kreter	Judene Huellinghoff Family	Paula Shockley	Tanner Goodman & Nicole Petty
12/28: Suzan Wilson	Danny Baxter Family	Jodi Layman	Kelsey Baxter & Sable Huebner

**ATTENDANCE**

Date:	Worship/Sun. School:	Date:	Worship/Sunday School:
Sunday, October 5	130/43	Sunday, November 2	150/39
Sunday, October 12	103/33	Sunday, November 9	141/43
Sunday, October 19	93/33	Sunday, November 16	120/38
Sunday, October 26	125/38	Sunday, November 23	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>451/147</b>	<b>3-Week Total:</b>	<b>411/120</b>
Average:	114/37	Average:	137/40

**BEM CHURCH FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT**

**General Fund**

<b>Balance as of 10-25-08</b>	<b>\$5465.</b>
Income:	
Offering	\$7500
Tower	\$550.
Dinners	\$880
Interest	\$85
Other	<u>\$1382</u>
Total Income	\$10,397.
Expense: Budgeted Items	(\$11,007.)
<b>Balance as of 11-20-08</b>	<b>\$4855</b>

**Cemetery Fund**

<b>Balance as of 10-25-08</b>	<b>\$3957</b>
Income:	
Apple Butter	\$424
Envelope	\$135
Interest	<u>\$62.</u>
Total Income	\$621.
Expense: Apple Butter	(\$190.)
<b>Balance as of 11-20-08</b>	<b>\$4388</b>

**Building Fund**

<b>Balance as of 10-25-08</b>	<b>\$2908.</b>
Income: Envelope	\$31.
Expenses:	(\$283)
<b>Balance as of 11-20-08</b>	<b>\$2656.</b>

**Special Offering Fund**

<b>Balance as of 10-25-08</b>	<b>\$1022.</b>
Income: Food Bank	\$70.
Mission Fund	\$475.
Shannondale	\$272.
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$5
Russell House, other	<u>\$165.</u> \$50
Total Income	\$1037.
Designated Disbursements	(\$1066.)
<b>Balance as of 11-20-08</b>	<b>\$993.</b>

**Memorial/Gift Fund**

<b>Balance as of 10-25-08</b>	<b>\$7517.</b>
Income: Schlottach Memorial	\$50
<b>Balance as of 11-20-08</b>	<b>\$7567</b>

**Etta Licklider VBS Fund**

Savings Account Balance:	<b>\$903</b>
CD Balance:	<b>\$9891.</b>

**Youth Fellowship Account**

<b>Balance as of 10-25-08</b>	<b>\$1679.</b>
Income: Donations	\$151.
Soda machine	\$77
Expenses: Mo-Val Retreat	(\$380)
<b>Balance as of 11-20-08</b>	<b>\$1527.</b>

**Quilters**

<b>Balance as of 10-25-08</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Donations:	\$500
Expenses: Supplies, top	(\$157)
<b>Balance as of 11-20-08</b>	<b>\$343</b>

### **CHOIR NOTES**

Come to Choir Practice! The Bem Church Choir will be rehearsing during the week- one Monday night a month! They will meet at 6:30 on December 1; January 5; February 2; March 2; April 6; and May 4. At this time, they will choose and practice the anthems for the upcoming month, and rehearse any special music that is coming up in worship. Weekly practices are hard to make, but once a month may be more attainable for all. Mark your calendars for the year now, and Praise the Lord in song!

### **CHRISTMAS CANTATA COMING UP**

The Bem Church Choir has been practicing with the St. Peter's UCC Choir for a joint Christmas Cantata again this year. If you wish to participate, practices are at 7:15 every Wednesday night at St. Peter's UCC. The presentation will be on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00pm. Come hear the choir offer praises to God, then head over to Farmer's Merchant for Nobby's annual Christmas meal fundraiser. What a great day of Christmas cheer!

### **BUILDING A BRIDGE TO KENYA- Quilt Raffle!**

Church World Services is organizing a delegation of 10 persons actively engaged in their communities in CWS programs to meet with Kenyan leaders from rural and urban areas to stand in solidarity with them as they struggle to overcome hunger, unemployment, HIV/AIDS and global policies of oppression. Our own Laura Shore has been picked for this delegation, due to her tireless efforts in the CROP fundraising walks. Congratulations, Laura!

Laura will leave Bem on February 3 to travel to Kansas City. She will spend a day in transit, arriving in Kenya on February 4. While there, she will participate in several CWS programs, including working with the Water for Life program on February 6. (This is the program Bem Church raised \$5000 for in memory of Jana Smith.) Every day is a different CWS program, in which Laura will gain hands-on experience working in mission with God's children. On February 15, she returns home to Bem, to share her journey with us.

This trip will cost Laura quite a bit of money; and despite Laura's protests, the Bem Church Mission Committee and the Quilters are committed to helping her defray those expenses as much as possible. To this end, the Quilters are sponsoring a Quilt Raffle, to take place on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. Tickets are 6 for \$5.00 and are available in the church office, at "In the Niche" and Farmer's Merchant Café in town; or talk to Mary Ota, Carole Dotson, Kim Oberle, or any of the Quilters.

*Watch for another fundraising event coming up on January 11 by the Mission Committee, too!*

### **PAIRS AND SPARES NEWS**

Pairs and Spares will be supporting the Heifer Project for Christmas instead of a gift exchange. Members who care to participate will donate \$5.00 toward the purchase of an animal. These animals go to help families who need a "hand up" instead of a "hand out."

The Pairs and Spares Christmas Meal will be Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Visitors are always welcome. Bring a story or a memory to share!

*What's going on in the United Church of Christ? Check out [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)!*

**ST. JOHN'S UCC PRAYER LIST**

...as of 11/20/08

*Prayer Joys and Concerns...*

**The Aytes Family...** welcoming their new baby Gregory Russell Aytes into their lives!  
**Elaine Menderski...** anticipating surgery soon  
**Tiffany Youtzy...** recovering from gall bladder surgery 11/11  
**Margot Schmidt...** recovering from bypass surgery 11/17. Doing well!  
**Jean Koenig...** recovering well from back surgery. Blessings!  
**Leah Atkinson and The Congregation of St. Peter's UCC, Washington...** as they commit to ministry together. Leah begins serving as Associate Pastor there December 1!  
**Rev. Richard Brueseke and The Congregation of Ebenezer Stone Church, UCC...** as he retires from ministry there December 31, and they begin their separate journeys in faith

*Recovering from surgeries & other procedures...*

**Don Ruffner; Mary Spurgeon; John Kreter; Greg Kohrmann; Nick Kohrmann;**  
**Esther Hollander** (Recovering from heart valve replacement surgery); **Nobby Ota;**  
**Jim Wilkerson** (JoAnn Glaser's brother in law); **Bob Neuls; Jordan Ruffner**

*Health Issues...*

**Jim Honse** (Dee Ruegge's friend); **Judy Hall** (Teresa Ringeisen's friend); **Vi Miller;**  
**Norman Blankenship; Betty Raack; Laura Simmerly** (Diana Halmick's friend);  
**Katy Gallagher; Andrea Schotz** (Connie Koepke's cousin); **Rev. Richard Brueseke;**  
**Remi Bruning** (Paula Shockley's friend); **Kristie Krupp** (Cheryl Ruffner's sister);  
**Larry Albert** (Bob Neuls' friend); **Joe Smith** (Carole Dotson's nephew)

*Challenges in Life... Pam & Richard Koepke; Fran & Dan Graham; Ken Wittich & Family*

*Living with Cancer...*

**Mary Ackermann** (Vicky Huebner's friend); **Joyce Elsperman** (Lori Adams' friend);  
**Karen Willimann** (Armin Enke's daughter); **Patty Kempf** (Danny Baxter's secretary);  
**Michelle Arnold** (Aimee Hansel's friend); **Cecelia** (JoAnn Glaser's sister); **Eddie Tayloe;**  
**Dave Stark** (Fenton Fire Fighter); **Sue Sassman; Joy Schneider** (Nancy Carl's Friend);

*Serving us in the Military... Tommy Creedon, Landon Freeman, Page Neville,*

**Brendan O'Very, Erik Laudahal, JR Lackey & Jason West**

*Our family members and friends in care facilities...*

**Blanche Lewis, Edna Morgan, Lois Kreter,**  
**& Geneva Schaefferkoetter** at Gasconade Manor;  
**Ira Lickliger** at Sunset Health Care in Union;  
**Bernice Lickliger** at Frene Valley

*Pregnancies in our church family...*

**Dyana & Keith Glaser; Brooke & Taylor Wildebrandt**  
**Kristen & Cody Echols**  
**Renee & Brandon Shaw & Ashlee**  
**Brandi & Chris Lauth & Will**  
**Tina & George Wnuk & Molly**  
**Chad & Jessica Mittelhauser**  
**Kristie & Tom Zaccagnino (Oldfather)**

(Tommy is Suzan's friend, in Afghanistan; Landon is Paula Shockley's friend, in Kuwait; Page is Fran Huebner's friend, now home from Iraq; Brendan is Kim Oberle's cousin, currently in Iraq; Erik is Nancy Carl's nephew, in the National Guard, serving in Iraq; JR is Judene's nephew; Jason West is Erin West's brother in law. Jason is home from Iraq, serving us stateside)

*This year's confirmation class...*

**Kelsey Baxter, Andrew Carey, Tanner Goodman, Sable Huebner & Nicole Petty**

**ST. JOHN'S UCC, BEM- DECEMBER 2008 CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES- 10:00am      SUNDAY SCHOOL- 8:45am**

November 29 <sup>th</sup> -	Hanging of the Greens- Decorating for Christmas	9:00am
November 30 <sup>th</sup> -	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b>	
	Healthy Relationships Gathering	9:00am
	<b>All-Church Advent Workshop</b> with soup luncheon	11:00am
December 1 <sup>st</sup> -	Choir Practice	6:30pm
	Mission Committee Meeting	7:00pm
December 6 <sup>th</sup> -	Breakfast with Santa at Masonic Lodge	7:00-10:00am
	SA Bell Ringing at Wal-Mart	10:00am-6:00pm
December 7 <sup>th</sup> -	St. Peters/Bem Christmas Cantata at St. Peters	3:00pm
	Nobby Ota's Holiday Meal at Farmer's Merchant	4:00pm
December 8 <sup>th</sup> -	Council Meeting	6:30pm
December 10 <sup>th</sup> -	Owensville/Rosebud Ministerial Alliance at FBC	10:30am
December 12 <sup>th</sup> -	SA Bell Ringing at Wal-Mart	10:00am-6:00pm
December 14 <sup>th</sup> -	Youth Group Meeting	11:00am
	Healthy Relationships Gathering	11:15am
December 18 <sup>th</sup> -	SA Bell Ringing at Wal-Mart	10:00am-6:00pm
December 19 <sup>th</sup> -	Youth Group Christmas Caroling	
December 21 <sup>st</sup> -	Youth Group Mexican Meal Mission Fundraiser	4:00-6:00pm
	Children's Christmas Play- "Double Take"	6:00pm
	Lindsey's Christmas Play- "An Unexpected Holiday"	7:00pm
December 24 <sup>th</sup> -	<b>Christmas Eve Worship Services</b>	<b>5:00pm &amp; 11:00pm</b>
December 28 <sup>th</sup> -	Annual Meeting Reports Due	
December 30 <sup>th</sup> -	Grape Country Cluster Meeting at St. James, Charlotte	7:00pm

**QUILTING EVERY TUESDAY 9:00AM-2:00PM: BRING SACK LUNCH**

**YOGA EVERY MONDAY: 6:00-7:30pm**

St. John's United Church of Christ  
1944 Bem Church Road  
Owensville, MO 65066

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