

Central Scene

The Monthly Newsletter of Central Presbyterian Church, Pine Bluff, Arkansas

December 2011

Place Your Order for Christmas Poinsettias

The church office is accepting orders for poinsettias. They will be placed in the sanctuary beginning December 18, and will remain through December 26. If you prefer not to purchase an actual plant, you may designate your gift for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund instead. To place an order, please fill out the form on page 6, and return it to the church office by December 14. The cost is \$12.50.

Reminder: End of Year Contributions & Special Gifts

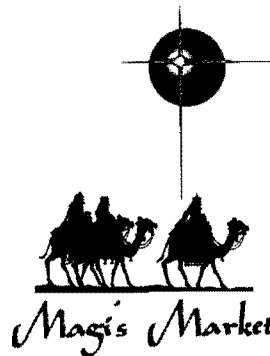


2011 Pledges & gifts to the church must be received by December 31, in order to be deducted on your 2011 tax return. Contributions that are received by the church in 2012, cannot be deducted on 2011's tax return, even if the check is dated 2011.

However, a check that is written, mailed, and postmarked in 2011, can be deducted on 2011's tax return even if it is not received by the church until 2012. We will follow these rules in issuing receipts. End-of-year contribution reports will be available no later than January 31, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Also, when making special gifts to the church (memorials, honorariums, benevolent giving, etc.), please write separate checks for each gift and designate what each gift is for on the memo line of the check. This makes posting and maintaining contribution records a much easier process.

The Magi's Market



It is time once again for the Magi's Market. The Missions Committee, in cooperation with First Presbyterian Church, is again offering the opportunity for you to purchase gifts for family and friends while supporting important mission ministries in our church, our community, and around the world. This is a wonderful opportunity to give a gift that keeps on giving. Your friends and/or family members will receive a Christmas card acknowledging a gift in their honor from you, and the ministry you choose will receive 100% of your financial donation to use as you have specified.

Booklets are available on the round table in the Narthex with more specific information about the Magi's Market and a Christmas catalog so that you can decide beforehand which gifts you would like to give. If you would like to have a catalog mailed to you, contact the church office. Checks should be made payable to Central Presbyterian Church. Orders will be accepted until December 23.

Please be in prayer for our successful participation in this unique occasion to give meaningful gifts in the true Spirit of Christmas.



Central Presbyterian Church
6300 Trinity Drive
P.O. Box 1105
Pine Bluff, AR 71613

...a congregation of the Presbyterian Church
(U.S.A.) through the Synod of the Sun and the
Presbytery of Arkansas.

Directory

Office Phone Number (870)879-9074

E-mail:
centralpc@cablelynx.com

Website:
www.centralprespb.com

Pastor: Dr. Daniel K. Festa
e-mail: cpc-pastor@cablelynx.com
(870) 671-4594 (home)

Choirmaster/Organist: Marty Shell

Secretary: Erin Shaw

Treasurer: Connie Detmers

Clerk of the Session: Alvin Glover

Presbyterian Women Moderator: Kay
Cromwell

Nursery Attendant: Laura Cosner

Youth Sponsors: Marty Shell
Rose Von Tungeln
Suzy Von Tungeln

SESSION

Class of 2011

Jane Judkins
Bubba VonTungeln
Amanda Chandler
George Mosley
Alvin Glover

Class of 2012

Zac Cosner
Laura Festa
Mike Kelley
Jemmie Moseley
John Parish

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Membership in Central Presbyterian Church is
open to all who profess faith in Jesus Christ as
Lord and Savior. New members will be
received upon baptism and profession of faith,
reaffirmation of faith, or by letter of transfer.

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to believe that we are once again in the midst of Advent and have begun the New church year. Advent, as most of you probably already know, is that period of watching and waiting, a time that requires of us an immeasurable sense of patience. What does patience mean for most of us? Patience for most of us is a time of reflection and a time of slowing our "racing motors."

Many of us live from one crisis to the next. We say to ourselves, "As soon as this or that is over, I'll be able to pause and sit back and reflect." But then somehow the next crisis arrives, and we are once again thrown into chaos. God has given each of us the ability to stop, pause, and "live in the moment." None of us has the ability to make a better "past," but with prayer, patience, reflection, and discipline we can make a "better today and perhaps even lay the foundation for a better tomorrow."

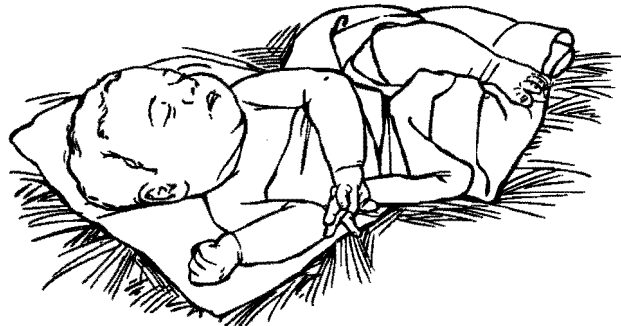
During this Advent Season, as we watch and wait for the birth of the Christ Child, I invite each of us to pause, pray, and be patient. Very few things that I can think of, ever get better because we, through our own sense of impatience, try and hurry through life. May God grant us the patience to embrace this time of watching and waiting.

Grace and Peace,

Dan

"A little child will lead them."

Isaiah 11:6, NIV



Financial Report	October	2011	Year-to-Date	2011
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Revenue				
Pledges & Contributions	\$9,567	\$10,332	\$97,395	\$103,289
Texas Foundation Interest	\$8,266	\$1,333	\$16,508	\$13,331
Busick Trust Interest	\$4,186	\$2,000	\$16,786	\$20,000
Operating Revenue	\$22,019	\$13,665	\$130,689	\$136,620
Expenses	<u>\$21,109</u>	<u>\$17,126</u>	<u>\$182,252</u>	<u>\$175,320</u>
Operating Net Income/(Loss)	<u>\$910</u>	<u>-\$3,461</u>	<u>-\$51,563</u>	<u>-\$38,700</u>

Note: We have received \$19,221 from the Belair Church Operating Account that was closed, \$5,943 from the Merle Reichen Estate Trust, and \$46,626 from the Jack Perdue Estate Trust that does not appear above. These unbudgeted funds received have allowed us to postpone withdrawing over \$38000 from our Foundation Trust Balance that was projected in the 2011 Budget through October, 2011.

A
Note from
the
Choirmaster
Marty Shell

Your choir has been extremely busy, not only working on anthems, but also two Cantata's. Be sure to mark your calendar for December 11, 2011, when the choir will present *Emmanuel, Celebrating Heaven's Child*, created by Joel Lindsey, arranged and orchestrated by Russell Mauldin, during the morning worship service. We present our newest Cantata, *Candles and Carols*, music and orchestration by Mark Hayes, narration and new lyrics by Pamela Martin. It is presented in parts each Sunday of Advent during our prelude and the lighting of the Advent candles, leading to our final service on Christmas Eve, at 5:30 p.m. For those able to join us on Christmas morning, we will only have morning worship at 11:00 a.m. and no other scheduled events for that day. Join us for the many opportunities to worship during our Advent season.

Our choir family is always looking for those who wish to share their talents in worship. We invite you to share with us as we have many opportunities before us! We still have openings in our bell choir. If you are interested, please sign up on the list in McElyea Hall. Rehearsals will be at 3:00 p.m., on Sunday afternoons, beginning soon!!

From our family to yours, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May this new year bring each of you much happiness, joy, and many blessings!





Martha Elizabeth Davis Roop, 96, a 93 year resident of Pine Bluff, died Monday November 7, 2011, at Jefferson Regional Medical Center. A memorial service directed by by Ralph Robinson & Son was held Thursday, November 10, 2011, at Central Presbyterian Church with Reverend Doctor Dan Festa officiating.

Born September 23, 1915, in Paragould, she was a daughter of Thomas David and Bonnie Elizabeth Burnett Davis St. Clair. Mrs. Roop was reared and received her early education in Pine Bluff, graduating from Pine Bluff High School. Martha married Royal Allen Roop in Pine Bluff, on January 16, 1937. Mr. Roop preceded her in death on February 25, 1973. Mrs. Roop was a loving mother and homemaker to her family. She was a very active member of Belair Presbyterian Church where she taught Sunday School and was presently a member of Central Presbyterian Church. She was G. I. A. of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

Mrs. Roop was preceded in death by her parents, her husband; three brothers, Jack Davis, T. D. Davis, Jr., and Charles Davis.

Survivors include one daughter, Anne Elizabeth Roop Reed of Houston, Texas; two sons, Donald William Roop of Orange, California, and Thomas Allen Roop of Woodlawn; three grandchildren, Leslie Elizabeth Huntsman of Angleton, Texas, Marilyn Elaine Brown of Austin, Texas, and Thomas Mark Roop of Fayetteville, Arkansas; seven beloved great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Central Presbyterian Church or the charity of the donor's choice.

Gifts to the Church

In Loving Memory of Martha Roop

Sheila and Jimmy Horn-Choir Fund

Bonnie Rauls-Choir Fund

Ann Woolley-Choir Fund

Mary Shannon and Lawrence Fikes-Undesignated

Bettie Joe Isbell-Undesignated

Sue and Frank Merritt-Undesignated

Rev. and Mrs. John Shell-Undesignated

Beverly Warren-Undesignated

Joannye Crabb-Undesignated

Floy (Daniels) and Paul Barber-Undesignated

Lou and Bob Bruce-Undesignated

Anne and Robert Reed-Landscape Fund

In Loving Memory of Clyde Goodman, Jr.

Ann Woolley-Choir Fund

Regular Group Activities at Central

Below is a list of group activities here at Central. We invite and encourage you to participate in as many of these activities as you would like. We hope you will join us!

Youth Group: Sunday - 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. - Youth/Activities Bldg.

Monthly Fellowship Luncheon: 3rd Sunday - 12:30 p.m. - McElyea Hall

Regular Session Meeting: 3rd Sunday - 1:30 p.m. - Conference Room

"The Firm Believers" Aerobics: Mon. & Wed. - 9 to 10 a.m., Tues. & Thurs. - 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - McElyea Hall

Weight Watchers: Monday - 12:00 p.m. & 5:45 p.m. - Youth Activities Building

Square & Folk Dancing: Monday - 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. - McElyea Hall

Presbyterian Women Evening Circle: 2nd Monday - 6:30 p.m. - Perdue Library

Presbyterian Women Morning Circle: 2nd Tuesday - 10 a.m. - Perdue Library

Ballroom Dance Classes: Tuesday - 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. - McElyea Hall

NAMI Meetings: 2nd Tuesday - 7 p.m. - Youth/Activities Bldg.

Central Choir: Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. - Choir Room

Noon Bible Study: Thursday - 12 p.m. - McElyea Hall

Al-Anon Parent's Group: Thursday - 6:30 p.m. - Perdue Library

Lions Club Dinner Meetings: 1st & 3rd Thursday - 7 p.m. - McElyea Hall

Dominos: 2nd and 4th Friday - 1 to 3 p.m. - McElyea Hall

Men of the Church Breakfast Meeting: 2nd Saturday - 8 a.m.

Ballroom Dance Lesson: 2nd Saturday - 7:00 p.m. - McElyea Hall

Ballroom Dance: 2nd Saturday - 8 to 11 p.m. - McElyea Hall

Blue Moon Sunday: 5th Sunday - 6 p.m. - McElyea Hall

Trinity Village Vespers: 5th Sunday - 4:30 p.m. - Trinity Village Great Hall

For more information on any of the activities listed, contact the church office at (870) 879-9074.

Central Notes

- ▶ **Central's Youth Will Meet** from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. each Sunday. We are currently working on our annual Christmas Program to be performed Sunday, December 18. We are in need of someone to help prepare and serve the meal for the youth as the sponsors are busy with rehearsals. We are also in need of any old bathrobes you no longer use for some of the costumes. Please see one of the Youth Sponsors if you are willing to help.
- ▶ **The Men of the Church Will Have a Breakfast Meeting** on Saturday, December 10. Members and friends of Central are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- ▶ **The Session Will Meet** Sunday, December 11, in the conference room, following morning worship.
- ▶ **The Women of the Church Are Invited** to a potluck Christmas dinner on Monday, December 12, at 6:30 p.m., at the home of Lynda Vick. The potluck is open to all women of the church, not just those currently active in a PW Circle. Please sign the sheet on the bulletin board in McElyea Hall or contact the church office if you would like to attend.
- ▶ **The Morning Circle Will Meet** Tuesday, December 13, at 10:00 a.m., in the Perdue Library.
- ▶ **The Monthly Fellowship Luncheon Will Be Held** next Sunday, December 18, following morning worship. All are invited to join in this time of fellowship.
- ▶ **Our Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Will Be Held** Saturday, December 24, at 6 p.m. This promises to be a wonderful Christmas Eve service you won't want to miss. Come and sing with us as we celebrate together on Christmas Eve!
- ▶ **On Christmas Day, We Will Gather** for 11 a.m. worship only. There will be no Sunday School that morning or other activities after morning worship.
- ▶ **The Church Office Will Be Closed** December 26 in observance of Christmas.
- ▶ **We Will Take** our Christmas decorations down on Saturday, January 7, 2012. Volunteers are needed and welcomed.



Poinsettias

Christmas Poinsettias

The church office will begin accepting orders for Christmas Poinsettias on November 27.

The cost is \$12.50 each. If you would like to place an order, please fill out the form below and return to the church office. The deadline to place an order is December 14.

Donor(s)

In Honor of:

In Memory of:

No. of Poinsettias _____

_____ Please check here if you prefer not to purchase a plant, and have your contribution donated to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.





WRAP IT UP FUNDRAISER

Benefits:

Central Presbyterian's Youth Playground

Saturday, December 10th 2011

10:00-3:00

And

Saturday, December 17th 2011

10:00-3:00

At

Central Presbyterian Church Youth Building

Fused-glass jewelry made by our own Dr. Dan Festa will also be
available for sale. Get your gifts wrapped and help raise
Money for the youth playground!



Wrap it up Price list

Small Gifts-\$1.00

CD's, Books, jewelry, candles.

Medium Gifts-\$3.00

Shirt sized boxes, board games, dolls, calendars,
and shoe boxes.

Large Gifts-\$5.00

Large clothes boxes, coats, small kitchen
appliances.

Deadline

The newsletter deadline for the January issue of *Central Scene* is Friday, December 16. Please turn in all articles, announcements, and meeting dates to the church office by the end of the day.



Youth News

Mark your calendar as we will present, *A Night in Bethlehem!*, by Sharon Kay Chatwell, on Sunday December 18, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. Our youth and sponsors have been working extremely hard to make this a special presentation to share with you. We also are looking for volunteers to help us with refreshments following the performance. Thank you in advance for all your support of our youth program and its outreach.

We extend a warm wish to all for a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Important Dates December

- 04 Congregational Meeting
- 10 **Men's Breakfast Meeting** - 8 a.m. - McElyea Hall
"Wrap it Up" - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. - Youth/Activities Bldg.
- 11 **Choir Cantata** - during morning worship
Session - following morning worship - conference room
- 12 **PW Christmas Potluck** - 6:30 p.m. - Lynda Vick's home
- 13 **Morning Circle** - 10 a.m. - Perdue Library
- 16 **Newsletter Deadline**
- 17 **"Wrap it Up"** - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. - Youth/Activities Bldg.
- 18 **Guest Pastor:** Rev. Don Campbell
Christmas Joy Offering received
3rd Sunday Fellowship Luncheon - following worship
Youth Christmas Play - 5:30 p.m. - McElyea Hall
- 24 **Christmas Eve**
Candlelight Communion Service - 6 p.m.
 Steward: Dr. Laura Festa
- 25 **Christmas Day** - 11 a.m. worship service only
- 26 **Office Closed**
- 31 **New Year's Eve**



SAVIOR ORNAMENT

This Christmas, celebrate Jesus' birthday by making this keepsake ornament.

What you need:

- Wooden clothespin with round end
- Black permanent marker
- White cloth or felt
- Small wooden star (available at craft stores)
- Yellow paint
- Paintbrush
- Gold glitter (optional)
- Glue gun (and an adult)
- Straw-colored raffia
- Palm-size wicker wreath (available at craft stores)
- Ribbon

What you do:

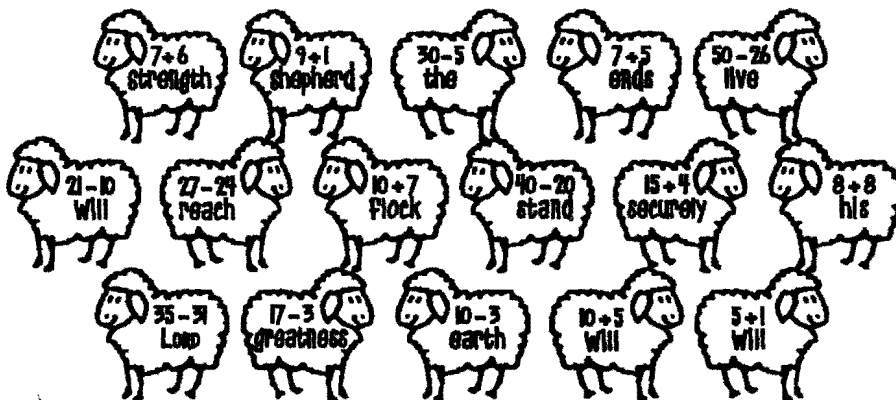
1. On the clothespin's round knob, draw two dots for eyes.
2. Wrap the white cloth around the clothespin, like a swaddled baby.
3. Paint the star yellow; add glitter, if desired.
4. With the glue gun and adult supervision, glue the raffia to the bottom inside of the wreath. Then glue the swaddled clothespin atop the raffia and glue the gold star atop the wreath.
5. Tie a ribbon around the top, near the star.
6. Hang the ornament on your Christmas tree or tie it on a gift.



A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

Directions: To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.



"He 15 and 20 his 10 17

in the 13 of the 4 And they 11 24

19, for then 16 14 6

3 to the 12 of 25 7."

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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Please see Regular Group Activities insert for additional activities

Central Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 1105
Pine Bluff, AR 71603

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Pine Bluff, AR
Permit #514

Return Service Requested



01 Kodee Vick	11 Bernice Collins
06 Erin Shaw	17 Dr. Dan Festa
06 Rick Lee	17 Denise Moseley
06 Lan Kelley	30 Rich Cromwell
08 Amanda Vick	28 Chris Walker
11 Sheila Horn	

Celebrating 
An Anniversary This Month

01 Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Horn
18 Drs. Laura and Dan Festa
28 Mr. and Mrs. David Judkins
28 Mr. and Mrs. Rick Pierce

Lectionary Readings for the Month of December

Sunday, December 4

2nd Sunday in Advent

Isa. 40:1-11; Ps. 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

Sunday, December 11

3rd Sunday in Advent

Isa. 61:1-4, 8-11; Ps. 126 or Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thess. 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sunday, December 18

4th Sunday in Advent

2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55 or Ps. 89:1-4, 19-26; Rom. 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Isa. 9:2-7; Ps. 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Sunday, December 25

Nativity of Jesus Christ/Christmas Day

Dawn: Isa. 62:6-12; Ps. 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20;
Day: Isa. 52:7-10; Ps. 98; Heb. 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14