

Central Scene

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

December 2013

The Magi's Market



Does the Christmas rush give you a holiday low? Are you having a hard time finding that perfect, special gift? Wouldn't you love to give an important and memorable gift which may mean life to someone in your hometown or a poor and hungry child far away? Well, here's your chance and you don't have to step foot in a single store!

Welcome to the Magi's Market. The Missions Committee, in cooperation with all the other Presbyterian Churches in town, are 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. Instead of the traditional tie or nightgown, you might choose to sponsor a Haitian child or provide utility assistance for the poor. 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.

This event will be held during the month of December. You will soon receive a mailing 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.

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

Is Your Pledge Up-to-Date?

Member Contribution reports are available by request from the church office.

Place Your Order for Christmas Poinsettias

The church office will begin taking orders for poinsettias on November 24. They will be placed in the sanctuary beginning December 15, 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 enclosed form and return it to the church office by December 15. The cost is \$12.50.

It Is Time for Wrap-it-Up!



Overwhelmed by the thought of holiday gift wrapping? Let us do the work! On Saturday, December 14 & 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., you can bring your items to the Youth/Activities building to have them wrapped. The price list is as follows:

Small Gifts-\$3.00

CD's, Books, jewelry, candles.

Medium Gifts-\$5.00

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

Large Gifts-\$10.00

Large clothes boxes, coats, small kitchen appliances.

All benefits from Wrap-it-Up will benefit Central Presbyterian Women's Missions. For more information or to volunteer, contact **Laura Pierce (870-247-5392)**

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:

Choirmaster/Organist: Marty Shell

Secretary: Erin Shaw

Treasurer: Connie Detmers

Clerk of the Session: Laura Pierce

Presbyterian Women Moderator: Betty Coles

Nursery Attendant: Laura Cosner

Youth Sponsors: Marty Shell
George Mosley
Amber Poss

SESSION

Class of 2013

Lawrence Fikes
Steven Howsen
George Mosley
Dana Neal
Laura Pierce

Class of 2014

Bill Detmers
Jo Weaver
Pat Drewett
Lan Kelley
Tommy Dunlap

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.

December/January Events

1st Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2013
Begin Lectionary Year A
Moravian Love Feast
Magi's Market Begins

Wrap It Up!

December 14 & 21
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Youth/Activities Building

4th Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2013
Annual Christmas Cantata
Christmas Joy Offering Received
Fellowship Luncheon

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2013
Candlelight Communion Service
5:30 p.m.

Christmas Day

December 25, 2013
Office Closed

New Year's Day

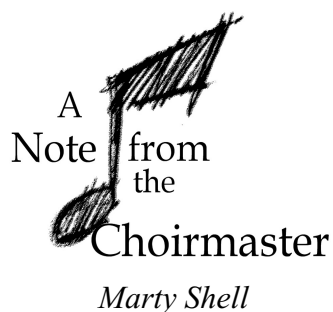
January 1, 2014
Office Closed
No Choir

Remove Christmas/Advent Decorations

January 4, 2014
9 a.m.

**Be sure to check out your weekly bulletins for details on these
upcoming events!**





We certainly hope everyone had a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving holiday. It is very difficult to believe Christmas is almost here... It really seems like the years are really flying by. Join us on Sunday December 22, for the morning worship. Central's choir will present

"Behold the Star" a Christmas Journey to the Light of Christ, by Lloyd Larson. The story of faith is often reflected as a journey from darkness to light. The Old Testament speaks of Israel living in bondage and darkness, awaiting the light of the promised Messiah. The arrival of the Messiah is punctuated by light every step of the way: a bright angelic host proclaiming the news to Judean shepherds keeping watch over their flocks; a shining star inviting Magi from afar to the young Christ-child in an act of worship and praise. The gospel of John refers to Jesus as the "light of all people" (John 1:4). Jesus even referred to Himself as the "light of the world" (John 8:12). It is this imagery of light that provides the unifying thread for *"Behold the Star!"*.

The Christmas story is more than the recording of a miraculous historical event. Each time the story is re-told in scripture, music, meaningful annual traditions, or life-changing encounters with the God of the universe, it becomes fresh and new as the love and hope of Jesus is born again in each of us! Christmas reminds us that the star which once shone over Bethlehem still shines in the hearts of those who seek the warmth of God's embrace. Jesus Himself shines as the everlasting Morning Star. The brilliance of Christ's light still illumines the path to the eternal God. May your life be filled with the light of Christ's unending love as you celebrate anew the good news of the Christmas story. Mark your calendar, and don't miss this performance.

We will celebrate our potluck fellowship luncheon following this special service. Be sure to bring your favorite dish to share. Central's choir wishes each of you a very Merry Christmas and a safe, joyous Happy New year!!



Reminder: End of Year Contributions & Special Gifts

2013 Pledges & gifts to the church must be received by December 31, 2013 in order to be deducted on your 2013 tax return. Contributions that are received by the church in 2014, cannot be deducted on 2013's tax return, even if the check is dated 2013.

However, a check that is written, mailed, and postmarked in 2013, can be deducted on 2013's tax return even if it is not received by the church until 2014. We will follow these rules in issuing receipts. End-of-year contribution reports will be available no later than January 31, 2014. 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.

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Lectionary

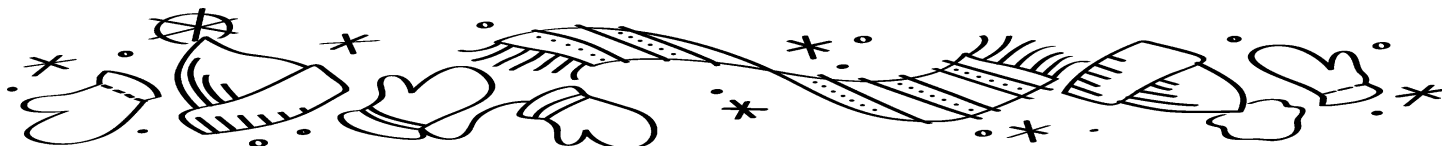
Christmas Eve

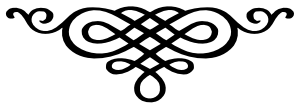
Isa. 9:2-7; Ps. 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Christmas Day

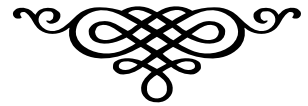
Dawn: Isa. 62:6-12; Ps. 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20;

Day: Isa. 52:7-10; Ps. 98; Heb. 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14





Gifts to the Church



In Loving Memory of Shelburn F. Lee

M. L. McElyea-Undesignated
Patsy and Al Glover-Choir
Suzy VonTungeln-Undesignated

In Loving Memory of Mable Robinson

Mary Shannon and Lawrence Fikes-Undesignated

Memorial & Gift Opportunities

Youth Trip Fund

Each summer, our Youth take a vacation trip. We have traveled to many different locations like Magic Springs, Silver Dollar City, Six Flags and even Disneyworld! Our youth really look forward to this trip each year, and work hard fund-raising year round to help cover the costs of the trip. However, the cost of travel, food and lodging can be expensive. Your gift would go a long way to help offset these costs!

Landscape Fund

We have completed the first stages of our Landscaping Project, but there is still a lot to be done. If you would like to contribute to this ongoing project in memory or honor of a loved one, or just give a gift toward the completion of this project, please designate your desire on the memo line of your check or attach a note to your gift indicating your wishes.

Playground Equipment

We are also seeking special funds to continue work on our playground to support our growing group of young people. If you would like to contribute to this effort in memory or honor of a loved one, please designate your desire on the memo line of your check or attach a note to your gift indicating your wishes.

Music Department

In years past, one of the ways in which members and friends have remembered loved ones was to purchase new music for the choir as a memorial dedicated to that special someone. If you would like to remember or honor someone special with a memorial gift of music, please contact the church office for details on how you can underwrite the purchase of new material for our growing music program.

Youth Program

Our Youth program is thriving! One way that you can support this growing ministry in our church is by providing a meal for one of the weekly youth group meetings. The average cost to feed the group is \$40, but any and all gifts are appreciated!

Memorial Bricks

If you have thought about making a lasting memorial to someone dear, now is a wonderful time to purchase a memorial brick on the sidewalk leading to our North entrance with their name permanently inscribed. The cost for each brick is \$65. If you would like to buy a memorial brick, please call the church office to request an order form. Please submit the information you wish to appear on the memorial brick with your check. Text must not exceed three lines of more than 15 characters (including spaces) per line. Bricks can be given in honor of a loved one, as well.



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



"I'd like to thank the congregation for the snooze alarm you gave me for Christmas."



Not Just Another Story

Important Dates December

- 01 Magi Market Begins
Begin Lectionary Year A
Moravian Love Feast - 5:30 p.m.
- 09 **Evening Circle:** 6:30 p.m. - Perdue Library
- 10 **Morning Circle:** 10 a.m. - Perdue Library
- 14 **Wrap-it-Up** - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Youth/Activities Bldg
- 15 **Congregational Meeting**
end of worship
Deadline to order Poinsettias Session - following worship - conference room
- 16 **Newsletter Deadline**
- 21 **Wrap-it-Up** - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- 22 **Annual Christmas Cantata** - during morning worship
Christmas Joy Offering Received
Monthly Fellowship Luncheon - following worship
- 24 *Christmas Eve*
Candlelight Communion Service - 5:30 p.m.
- 25 *Christmas Day*
Office Closed
- 29 **Trinity Village Vespers** - 4 p.m. - Trinity Village Great Hall
- 31 *New Year's Eve*
Office Closed on New Year's Day



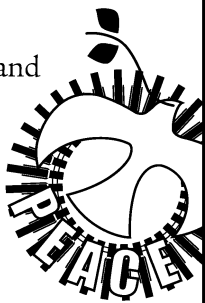
PEACE Wreath

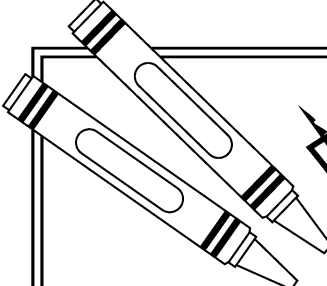
What you need:

- Paint (blue and green)
- Paint brush
- Embroidery hoop
- 24 wooden clothespins
- Scissors
- Craft foam (white, red and green)
- Glue
- 3 white feathers
- Floral wire (two pieces)

What you do:

1. Paint the hoop blue and the clothespins green. When dry, attach clothespins around the hoop.
2. Cut a dove shape (slightly wider than the hoop's diameter) out of white foam. Glue on feathers.
3. Pierce the beak with a scissors tip. Slide a piece of wire through the slit to make an olive branch.
4. From green foam, cut out two leaves. Attach them to each end of the wire.
5. From red foam, cut out the letters P E A C E. Glue them onto clothespins.
6. Place dove in center of hoop. Glue its head and tail to clothespins.
7. Attach wire to the back and hang your wreath.





PUZZLE

A Child is Born

Jesus received many different names — even before he was born. Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) prophesies about four of these names.

Directions: Unscramble the words on the name tags below. (Hint: The first letter is capitalized.)

MY NAME IS

gyhMti

dGo

MY NAME IS

lerWnofud

esnruooCl

MY NAME IS

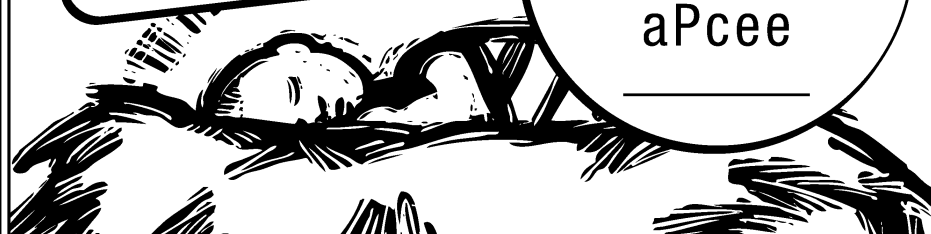
vrelEnsitga

eahFrt

MY NAME IS

niPcre

aPcee



Answers: Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December 2013</h1>						
1 Moravian Love Feast Magi Market Begins Begin Lectionary Year A	2	3	4 6:30 Choir	5	6	7
8	9 Evening Circle 6:30 p.m. - Perdue Library	10 Morning Circle 10 a.m. - Perdue Library	11 6:30 Choir	12 Delta Kappa Gamma Christmas Dinner Party 5 p.m. - McElyea Hall	13 Summerset Place Christmas Dinner Party 6 p.m. - McElyea Hall	14 Youth Activities Bldg "Wrap it Up" Ballroom Dance & Christmas Party 3-7 p.m. - McElyea Hall
15 Congregational Meeting Poinsettia Deadline Session -12:30	16 Newsletter Deadline	17	18 6:30 Choir	19	20	21 "Wrap it Up" 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Youth/Activities Bldg
22 Offering received Christmas Joy Annual Choir Christmas Cantata Fellowship Luncheon	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service 5:30 p.m.	25 Christmas Day No Choir Office Closed	26	27	28
29 Trinity Village Vespers 4 p.m. - TV Great Hall	30	31 New Year's Eve		Ushers Sue and Frank Merritt Lay Reader Bill Detmers		

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
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Return Service Requested



01 Kodee Vick	11 Bernice Collins
04 Mary Light	17 Dr. Dan Festa
06 Erin Shaw	17 Denise Moseley
06 Lan Kelley	28 Chris Walker
11 Sheila Horn	30 Rich Cromwell

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 1

1st Sunday in Advent

Isa. 2:1-5; Ps. 122; Rom. 13:11-14; Matt. 24:36-44

Sunday, December 8

2nd Sunday in Advent

Isa. 11:1-10; Ps. 72:1-7, 18-19; Rom. 15:4-13; Matt. 3:1-12

Sunday, December 15

3rd Sunday in Advent

Isa. 35:1-10; Ps. 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matt. 11:2-11

Sunday, December 22

4th Sunday in Advent

Isa. 7:10-16; Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19; Rom. 1:1-7; Matt. 1:18-25

Sunday, December 29

1st Sunday after Christmas Day

Isa. 63:7-9; Ps. 148; Heb. 2:10-18; Matt. 2:13-23