

West Side Church of Christ CALLER

January



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The Guest Speaker for both services on January 23, will be Jim Hudson. Jim is the manager of Woodland Lakes Christian Service Camp, Amelia, Ohio. Camp weeks are being planned for all youth ages and we hope to have some adults attend special programs for our seniors.



"We have a new Building Usage policy for anyone desiring to use any part of our premises. This new policy will come into effect for all new 2011 reservations. Please contact Ellen if you'd like to reserve a part of the building and/or grounds."



Would you like to become a part of an important behind-the-scenes ministry? Would you like the occasional opportunity to earn some extra money for helping with weddings? Maybe you just enjoy the thrill of learning new skills. If so, WSCC will be hosting 3 or 4 short A/V Ministry training sessions in January of next year. Having a previous knack for understanding technology is a plus, but it's certainly not required! All interested applicants are encouraged to sign up on David's office door."

Church

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Office Hours

Monday-Friday

9:30— 2:30

Church Staff

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Ellen Sippel
Secretary

Ellen@wscchamilton.org

**From Dan's Desk****Happy New Year?**

New year's is my least favorite holiday. Too many folks use the holiday simply as an excuse to get drunk, commit acts of immorality, or to indulge themselves in revelry and mayhem. Besides this, it falls right in the dead of winter. Christmas is now over, and there's not much to look forward to but the potential of 2 or 3 more months of winter weather. Bummer.

That brings me to the question at hand— what do we have to be happy about on January 1st? Well, as Christians we have much to be happy about. We can be happy about the fact that God has faithfully gotten us through the previous year. As we look back we may see troubles and difficulties, but we can also see God's hand of guidance and blessing upon us as well. Indeed, only when we get to heaven will it become clear to us the true measure of God's providential care over our lives.

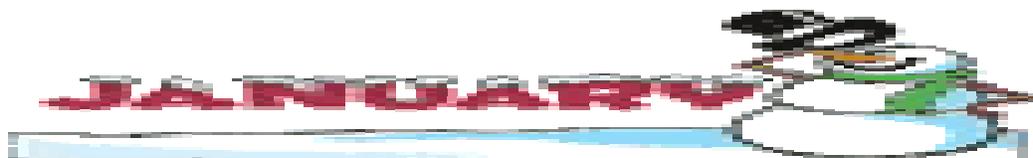
Also, we can be happy about this encouraging truth— that the God Who was with us in 2010 is the same God Who will be with us in 2011. For the Lord Himself promises His people, "Never will I leave you or forsake you." (Joshua 1:5) God is always with us, leading, guiding, blessing, and protecting His people as we walk in His will.

Likewise, we can be happy about the new year because of the new things God wants to accomplish in our own lives and in our congregation. The Lord tells us in His word: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland." God is always working to bring new, and good, and exciting things into our lives. Our task then is to not focus on what happened last year but rather on what will happen as we look to the future year, knowing that our great and good God does have new and good things in store for us.

With these things in mind, now that I've thought about them, maybe new year's isn't such a bad holiday after all. Who knows, I may even be convinced to stay up till midnight this New Year's eve!

For Him,

Dan



From David's Pondering Pool...



The Lord, Our Shepherd

I was recently reminded of one of the most meaningful birthday gifts I have ever received. After a good meal, some chocolate ice cream cake and unwrapping a few presents, I came to the gift which my grandmother (we call her Grandma "Dodo") had wrapped for me. The colored tissue paper crinkled quietly as I lifted it out of the small blue bag. Inside, I found an ordinary cardboard box. I opened the box, carefully removed its Styrofoam padding, and discovered a beautiful golden ship with the words of Psalm 23 engraved upon its sails. This golden ship has become a most treasured possession, and will be forever seen on my office desk as a reminder of God's guidance in every season of life.

Ships have been known as symbols of joy, freedom, and adventure. A sailor works in partnership with God on a quest to reach his final destination. God provides the wind that makes the ship move, and the sailor directs his masts, which catch the wind and guide his vessel swiftly along the ocean. Without God there would be no wind, and the ship would drift uselessly in the water's current. Without a sailor there would be no one to direct the masts, and the ship would propel aimlessly in the wind. Sometimes the sailor's adventure is easy; the wind is strong, the skies are blue, and the water is calm. Other times, however, the sailor's adventure is less than enjoyable; the wind is overpowering, the skies are black with storms, and the water is rough. Regardless of the season of a sailor's adventure, his journey is a continual partnership with God.

Psalm 23 provides one of the Bible's most familiar passages. It paints a beautiful portrait of a sheep that lovingly trusts its good shepherd and follows Him throughout the journey of life. We most often come to this portion of Scripture in times of trouble, being comforted by the understanding that the Good Shepherd is with us in our most difficult times. For this reason, we often forget that the Psalmist also speaks of times of rest in green pastures, strengthening beside still waters, and guidance along the path of life. The Lord is our Shepherd indeed; not only in times of trouble, but also in periods of peace.

As we find ourselves at the dawn of a new year, we anticipate that 2011 will be filled with both good times and bad. Sometimes we will find ourselves sailing under blue skies and following our Shepherd beside still waters. Other times we might discover ourselves struggling in the storms and pursuing our God in the valley of the shadow of death. Regardless of the circumstances that this new year provides, whether in good times or in bad, may we partner with God; allowing ourselves to be directed by the wind of His Spirit, and may we faithfully follow Him on this journey of life.

I leave you with the words engraved upon my desktop golden sailboat:

The Lord is my Shepherd,
I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul:
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
For Thou art with me:
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
Thou anointest my head with oil:
My cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Reflecting Light Encouragement Ministry



*Reflecting the light of God's love, hope,
and comfort into the darkness of illness*

~~~~~  
*"My God turns my darkness into light."  
 Psalm 18:28b NIV*



So how do you feel about the New Year? Is it just a time to put up another new calendar as you continue on in the same manner as last year? Or are you looking forward to the New Year with hope and anticipation? The Living Bible expresses Psalm 90:12,

*Teach us to number our days and recognize how few they are;  
 help us to spend them as we should.*

A diagnosis of a serious illness is a constant reminder to avoid complacency and apathy and to make the most of our time on earth. Each day can be a unique and special blessing regardless of circumstances when we place our hope and anticipation in the Lord Jesus Christ. He has special plans for 2011 just for you!

### Reflecting on 2010

We touched many lives through the *Cards of Encouragement* and *Bags of Hope*. Last year we gave almost 2200 cards and 52 bags. The ministry was primarily concentrated at the oncology clinic in Oxford twice a week as well as mailing cards and bags. Many of the patients are in treatment for several months so we get to know them well and can minister on a more intimate basis. For others the ministry is basically through the messages in the cards. Seeds were planted with non-believers, and believers were encouraged in their faith.

I was blessed by the gift of a laptop computer so I was able to take it with me when on the road with Joe and work on projects. A faithful friend of the ministry took on the mantle at the clinic while I was gone, and others have been helping with card and bag projects.

I had the opportunity to meet other Christian writers at the Middletown Area Christian Writers group and attend a couple of workshops. This has helped me to revise and improve the cards in preparation for making them available on a website.

2010 was a good year!

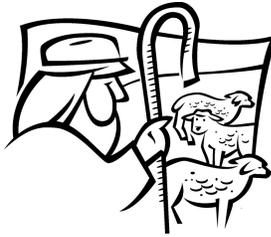
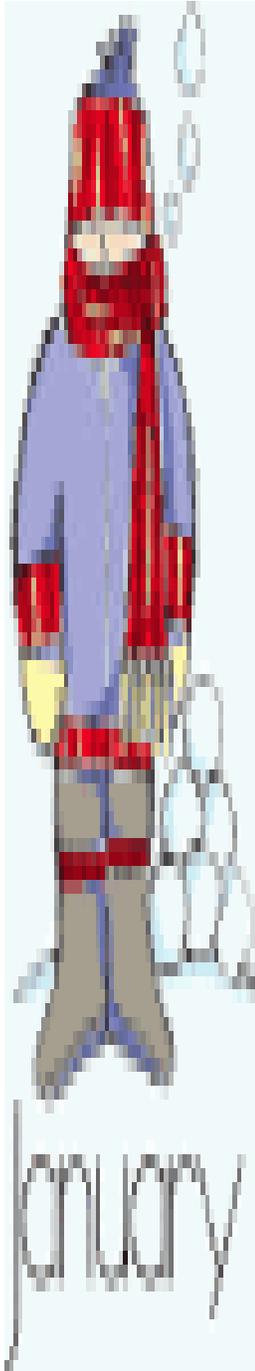
### Anticipating 2011

Our major goal is to have a website! We are praying for a teckie-type person to help with this project. I will continue revising the cards and writing new inspirational thoughts for new cards. We are looking forward with hope and anticipation on how God is planning to touch more lives through this ministry.

~~~~~  
 Encourage someone you know with a serious illness that they are not alone with a Bag of Hope and Cards of Encouragement. The Bag of Hope is made for either a man or woman and for any illness. These are available at no charge on the table next to the coffee/doughnut area. Contact me or the church office if you would like one tailored to a specific illness or mailed.

Support our Troops

Chaplain Ben Dillon
c/o Dawn Dillon
10736 Darneal Dr.
Fountain, CO 80817



Shepherd's Staff

An elder's insight.
By Neil Geyer

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – DECEMBER 12

Our congregational meeting was held on Sunday December 12, although the weather wasn't the best and some couldn't attend, it was a very good meeting. It was good because people spoke up, asked questions and made it informative. This was appreciated by the leadership who wants you interested in the workings of your church.

Financial accountability was brought up concerning the spending. It was relayed that our finance team consisting of Al Miller, Ron Gann, Ron Baker, Tom Perry and Sheila Smith (treasurer) does an excellent job of scrutinizing the expenses and making recommendations to the leadership. It was asked, do we have checks and balances? We do. All purchases are approved after a team files a purchase order, which is then signed by an elder and then paid by treasurer. Our treasurer keeps excellent records and all transactions are by the book or they don't get paid. Each functioning team has a budget and may spend within that amount but we still oversee with the purchase order.

The mission team reported that since cuts had to be made earlier in the year we are holding steady now. It was again emphasized that your offering doesn't go to help missions unless a portion is designated, either on check memo or offering envelope which has a line for general fund and one for missions.

The leadership team (elders and ministers) hope to see more functioning teams which allows them to devote time to spiritual and evangelistic matters. After the discussion the vote to approve elder, deacons and the budget was taken and all passed significantly. We were so pleased with the interest and positive comments on the ballots that we already look forward to our next meeting December 4, 2011.

The elders

Bible Trivia

Solomon's own home, in comparison with the Lord's was...?

I Kings 7:1-3

Shorter, Broader and the same height.

From whom did the Colossians learn the gospel?

Colossians 1:6-7
Epharas.

Where do we find Peter the last time he is mentioned in the books of Acts?

Acts 15
Jerusalem.

How long did Paul stay in Rome in his own rented house?

Acts 28:30
Two years.

King Saul was from what tribe of Israel?

I Samuel 9:1-2
Benjamin





- Seniors on the Go– - January 11, 11:00 AM
O'Charley's, Tri-County
- The Women's Bible Study resumes Wednesday January 5th with a Beth Moore study on the book of Revelation. .
- Youth groups will resume January 9. .
- The new Small Group led by Wayne and Linda Kieser will begin Tuesday at January 11, 7pm , at 1205 Kailyn Ct., Hamilton, Ohio.

- Senior Play day begins January 13th and 27th at noon.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for all the food you gave to the Christian Family Center. The number of families receiving food seems to grow weekly. There's many needy families in the North End of Hamilton and with your help we can continue to give food.

Thanksgiving dinners were donated by Community Christian Church to 160 families, 40 extra turkeys were given to us by churches and businesses and we filled extra baskets from the West Side food drive.

Thank you so much for your support of our local mission.

Carrol Combs

Dear Choir members and families,

Thank you very much for all the times of practice and sacrificing family togetherness for our Christmas music. Our God inhabits the praises of His people! He is pleased with our using our talents to uplift the name of our Savior Jesus Christ in song! May we continue to live our lives in our Lord's service and favor.

In Christian Love, Winnie

PS– Thank you also for the colorful, warm socks!!

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so very much for the beautiful flowers for Dad's memorial "Celebration of Life" service last Saturday, and for feeding our 74 relatives that were able to come (from 6 states!!) The memories shared were wonderful, and the food was delicious!! It was rich family togetherness!!

We really appreciate all your prayers throughout his recent illness. God took him home gently as he slept. We thank God for Dad's life and the heritage of love and service to Jesus Christ that he has left for us to follow.

In Christian Love,
Del & Winnie & Family

REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

- Barbara Anderson**
- Helen Dye**
- Rick Carmony**
- Harry Clark**
- Melissa Donaldson**
- Donna Elam**
- Linsey Gesell**
- Floyd Grubb**
- Dan Knisley**
- Robert Miller**
- Shirley Phillips**
- Paula Posilvar**
- Norman Quincy**
- Junior Schanie**
- Cindy & Cliff Wager**
- Pat Witt**

All with health concerns

- Sophie Bovenizer**
- Bill Chamberlain**
- Helen Dye**
- Anna George**
- Dolle Haven**
- Earl Kieser**
- Mae Lasley**
- Dale Richter**
- Ruby Wyatt**
- homebound

Bill Godbey
bereavement



Sunday Serving Schedules for January
Communion Preparation
 New Members— Dan Knisley

January 2

9:00 At the Table: Bill Gabbard, John Van Sickle
9:00 Serving Communion: Willard Adkins, Ron Baker, Roy Barker, Bill Brunner, Brian Butts, John Cole, Darrell Collins, Ray Dalton
9:00 Benediction: John Van Sickle
Home Communion: Clay Hinkle, Mark Hinkle
Exit Greeters: Dave Combs (SD), Bill Arnold (BD)

January 9

9:00 At the Table: Bill Arnold, Dave Combs
9:00 Serving Communion: Marc Gabbard, Ron Gann, Wayne Kieser, John Lowery, Bob Scaeffler, Elmer Scarth, Louie Spaulding, Chris Thompson
9:00 Benediction: Neil Geyer
Home Communion: John Van Sickle, Al Miller
Exit Greeters: Al Miller (SD), Mark Hinkle(BD)

January 16

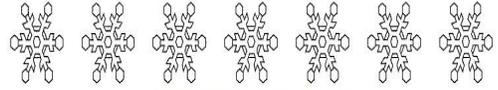
9:00 At the Table: Al Miller, Frank Owens
9:00 Serving Communion: Bill Gabbard, Bill Arnold, Dave Combs, Neil Geyer, Willard Adkins, Ron Baker, Roy Barker, Brian Butts
9:00 Benediction: Frank Owens
Home Communion: Bud Haacke, Bill Sandlin
Exit Greeters: Neil Geyer, John Cole

January 23

9:00 At the Table: Bill Sandlin, Neil Geyer
9:00 Serving Communion: John Cole, Darrell Collins, Ray Dalton, Al Miller, Frank Owens, Marc Gabbard, Bob Scaeffler, Elmer Scarth
9:00 Benediction: Pete Taylor
Home Communion: Ray Dalton, Neil Geyer
Exit Greeters: Frank Owens (SD), Mike Thacker (BD)

January 30 (Combined Services)

9:00 At the Table: Bud Haacke, Pete Taylor
9:00 Serving Communion: Roger Richardson, Bobby Haynes, Louie Spaulding, Neil Geyer, Frank Owens, Mike Thacker, Pat Kremis, Bill Arnold
9:00 Benediction: Dan Knisley
Home Communion: Frank Owens, Clay Hinkle
Exit Greeters: Al Miller, Mark Hinkle



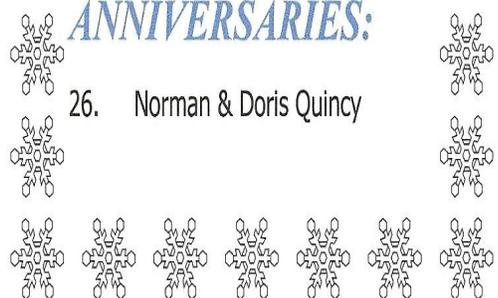
BIRTHDAYS:

- 6. Carley Butts
- Ruth Schaeffer
- 8. Pat Hornsby
- 11. Bob Schaefer
- 13. Geneva McSwain
- 15. Joseph Haynes
- Sherry Haynes
- 16. Beebee Geyer
- 21. Bob Moore
- 22. Zachary Knisley
- 24. Sara Butts
- 25. Bryan Brunner
- Roger Richardson
- 26. Margie Arnold
- 31. Wayne Kieser



ANNIVERSARIES:

- 26. Norman & Doris Quincy





NONPROFIT ORG.

US POSTAGE PAID

HAMILTON OH

PERMIT NO. 368.

A Real Church...for real people

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EVENTS AT A GLANCE

January 3	Church Office Closed
January 3	God's Girls
January 5	Women's Bible Study
January 9	Youth group resumes
January 10	Caller deadline
January 11	Seniors on the Go- O'Charley's
January 11	Small Group @ Kieser's
January 12	Women's Bible Study
January 13	Senior Play Day
January 18	Leadership Meeting
January 19	Women's Bible Study
January 23	Jim Hudson of Woodland Lakes
January 25	Small group @ Kieser's
January 26	Women's Bible Study
January 27	Senior Play Day
January 30	Combined Worship

Regular Services

Sunday:

Traditional Service	9:00 am
Bible School	10:15 am
Contemporary Service	11:15 am
Evening Worship	6:00 pm
Youth Meeting	6:00 pm

Wednesday:

Evening Bible Study	6:30 pm
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Fifth Sunday:

Bible School	9:30 am
Combined Service	10:30 am