



JANUARY 2012

THE WAY



We are a
Stephen Ministry
Caring Congregation



EAST FAIRFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

VOLUME 38 ~ NUMBER 01
PUBLISHED MONTHLY

*“Working, playing, and praying together
in our faith journeys to share Jesus Christ
with one another, our community, and the world.”*



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2011

5:00 PM Family Candlelight Service
7:00 PM Traditional Candlelight Service



We
hope
you all
have a very
blessed and
Merry Christmas
and we wish you a
joyous New Year !!!

THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS

Looking back 8 years ago it is hard to believe the first Guardian Angel Jesus Party was held in the month of December and consisted of eleven people (4 adults and 7 children). There was no Christmas Dinner, no Santa and no Angel Tree. But it was the beginning of the Guardian Angel's miracle that happens each year. It doesn't come from one person, rather it happens in the form of many people and situations. I want to share with you a few of the stories of the blessings from the past few weeks...

One Friday I was praying at the church because I was very worried about the amount of children still on the Angel Tree. As a Christian I was faithful that God would take care of His children, but as a mama hen, I was concerned. So I prayed... and within a half hour there was a knock on the door of the church and an Angel in the flesh handed me a check for \$280. He simply said that he and his wife were at home and felt that the kids needed it. God reminded me at that moment that He is not only still in charge, but that He loves us all and listens to our prayers. THAT was an amazing blessing. But it wasn't the true miracle.

I was touched to see people donating toys and extra goodies and supplies for our angels. It always warms my heart to see all the gifts come in for our amazing children. But there were still 25 names on the tree. So then I came to find out that a lot of people were donating money for the Angel Tree. The Youth and advisors have a ministry of their own when it comes to the Angel Tree. With the money donated, they shop for the remaining kids on the tree. This is a wonderful way for them to give to the community and grow as young adults, loving more each year. THAT was an amazing blessing. But it wasn't the true miracle.

And just when I thought we couldn't be more blessed... An individual stopped at the church and donated an anonymous check for \$500 to be used for the dinner and anything that we may need for this year. Our funding in the Guardian Angels account was dwindling down, so that was an amazing and much needed gift. THAT was an amazing blessing. But it wasn't the true miracle.

One day I posted on Facebook that I was going shopping for turkeys for the Christmas Dinner. Wasn't hinting or asking, but four individuals donated 125 pounds of turkey and 3 hams for our dinner. THAT wasn't the miracle in itself. But it was a miracle.

(... continued on Page 5)



REFLECTION AND RESOLUTION

As we approach the New Year we will once again immerse ourselves in some time-honored traditions. On New Year's Eve, Times Square will be filled with people. At homes and parties people will watch the final minutes of 2011 tick away. On New Years Day, various parades will be telecast and families will gather for New Year's Day meals.

In addition to this, something else happens at the close of one year and the dawn of a new year. We become reflective. We will think about the highs and lows of 2011. For some it was a year of great significance. Perhaps a child was born. Perhaps a marriage was celebrated. Perhaps a graduation celebrated. For others, 2011 was a year of significance, but for less joyous reasons. And, for a few others, 2011 will be remembered as a relatively uneventful year.

While we reflect upon the year that will soon be past, many of us will also make resolutions for the year that lies ahead. Health clubs will be filled with new members with a new found resolve. Diets will be followed. Home projects that have been put off will be resumed.

Reflection and resolution—these are part of the New Year holiday. As we reflect upon the events that were significant to us in 2011, let us always be mindful of the fact that there is One who was with us during all of those peaks and valleys of 2011. As we look ahead to 2012, with perhaps some sense of a personal resolve involving an aspect of our life, let us do so in the knowledge that the One who was our help in the past, will be our help in the future.

Rev. Mike

MISSIONARY SPEAKERS SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2012

Michael & Brenda Williams
and their children, Luke and Josiah.

The Williams were assigned to Uganda,
but their next mission field is "Creative Access."

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UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

JOY CIRCLE

The Joy Circle met on Monday, November 28 with twelve members present. Norma Nulf asked the blessing before lunch which was served by Lois Dickey and Thelma Adams. We sent cards to Carol and Allan Chamberlin. Thelma suggested we send Christmas cards to our shut-ins. Our Women's Christmas Party was December 7 at the Career Center in Lisbon. Bring peanut butter or jelly for the 4C's. Thelma and Sue Kariher will serve on the membership drive in January. Joyce read a letter from the Youth With a Purpose Boys Home. Thelma read a letter from her grandson who is on an Adventure in Missions to several countries. Betty Beight and Zelda Cook are hostesses for our meeting on January 30.

HOPE CIRCLE

The Hope Circle packed 36 bags of cookies for the Christmas Cookie Run. Thanks to everyone who gave items for the bags. Also, thanks to all who took a bag of cookies to hand out to someone at a restaurant, drive-thru, gas station, grocery store, etc. We hope all of you who participated received a blessing.



In the Mail

- ♥ Dear church, Thank you for the Bible. It is cool. Thank you. - Michael Fidoe
- ♥ Thanks so much for the college care package! It helps so much when doing school work to have a little something extra to eat! Thanks so much ! - Corey Hill
- ♥ Thanks! I was overwhelmed by the cards, letters, visits, prayers, phone calls, and goodies (ranging from pretzels to angel food cake and elderberry pie) during my recent wreck injury and recovery. And my birthday. I have a great family and church family. It is surely good to know I have so many good and caring friends. Thanks again. - George Schmidt
- ♥ Thank you so much for the Thanksgiving treats that were such a blessing. I drive once in awhile, but not when the weather is bad. Thanks for thinking about me. - Susan Case
- ♥ Dear Church Family, Thank you so much for the Thanksgiving Basket. I shared it with the staff and fellow residents. Everyone enjoyed the treats. - Betty Vollnogle
- ♥ Thank you so much for the Thanksgiving goodies and all the cards and prayers. The last six months have been quite a challenge. I hope just one more back surgery and a much better 2012. I am so blessed to have such a supportive family and church family. - Sue Cope
- ♥ Dear Friends at EF Church, Allan and I do appreciate you thinking of us. We certainly are enjoying all the good treats in the bags. Even the teddy bear sits and watches us! Sunday morning just doesn't seem right when we are not in church and I see Allan in the choir. We do appreciate hearing from you and a visit when you can. Also, what a nice surprise last Sunday to open the door to so many smiling faces. Your singing really made our day. - Allan & Carol Chamberlin
- ♥ Thank you for the gifts you recently gave me. Even though I don't know who have given, I am grateful. With the recent surgery and therapy, I'll probably have some expenses not covered by insurance. I'll also be sending a tithe to help on the church planting ministry training in Uganda. Praise the Lord we have finally been able to prepare and train leaders and now have a Ugandan who was just installed as a bishop. Kefa Masiga is his name. His assistant is James Ouma who pastors the church at Kisugu in Kampala, Uganda. Please pray for these men in their new responsibilities that they will truly be men after God's heart and be effective leaders for the 176 churches that have been planted in these ten years since World Gospel Mission began work in Uganda. - Meryl Esenwein
- ♥ Many thanks for all the goodies in the Thanksgiving bags. Sure appreciated it all. - Virginia Crook
- ♥ The Henderson family thanks you for the beautiful poinsettia plant. Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated at this difficult time with the passing of our father and grandfather. - Bryan, Karen, Dunstin, Bree, Colby



Prayer, Care, and Share



Please keep the following people in your prayers

- ◆ **David Vollnogle** Had hip replacement on December 15.
- ◆ **Carl Roberts** Respiratory problems. (Grant's father)
- ◆ **Tim Khol** Surgery December 20. (George Schmidt's son-in-law)
- ◆ **Ed Feezle** Had knee replacement surgery. In a lot of pain.
- ◆ **Bonnie Hicks** Esophageal cancer and masses on thyroid. (Leo Hicks' mother)
- ◆ **Tracey Greenamyre** Chronic headaches. (Joe & Barb DePillo's daughter)
- ◆ **Nancy Groubert** Breast cancer
- ◆ **Lia** E-coli. Some improvement (5yr old daughter of Rev. Mark McTrusty—EP Centenary)
- ◆ **Ryan Dowling** Neurological disorder (Leo Hick's nephew)
- ◆ **John** Cancer (Sandra Payne's cousin)

Serving in the Military

Greg Bing , Kyle Crook, Sam Frost, James Frost, Kyle Gotch, Richard Matulja, Rob Ray, Cody Wine

Our Shut-ins

Evelyn Albright	Ramon & Sarah Berger	Susan Case	Allan & Carol Chamberlin
Virginia Crook	Kathryn Firestone	Harry & Ruth Hawkins	Dorothy McQuiston
Evalyn Morris	Betty Vollnogle	John & Dorothy Ward	

Our Sympathies

Henrayetta (Rita) Cross (Tim Cross' mother) passed away December 4.

Dorothy Meiser (wife of the late Rev. Wilbur Meiser) passed away Dec. 15, 2011.

We'd like to send boxes to our military personnel in January.
At this point, we are guessing we may have 8-10 soldiers to send packages to.



CANDY	FOOD (dry goods/snacks)	PRINTED MATERIALS	OTHER
Penny Candy – (heat resistant)	Sugar packets	Books (novels, short stories)	Plastic spoons
Cough Drops	Bars (Clif or Balance)	Newspapers (local)	American Flags (small)
Twizzlers	Beef Jerky	Magazines	Baggies (with zip lock)
Gum (no sticks)	Canned Fruit (pop top)		Jump Ropes
	Cereal (in small boxes)	TOILETRIES/HYGIENE	Bug Spray
CORRESPONDENCE	Condiments Packages (ketchup, etc)	Baby Wipes	Duct Tape
Writing Paper	Granola Bars and Pot Tarts	Nose spray	Disposable Cameras
Envelopes	Oatmeal (instant)	Eye Drops	Flashlights (mini/mag lite)
Pens/Pencils	Ravioli (pop top cans)	Deodorant and Foot Powder	Fans (sm. battery powered)
DENTAL	Tuna Kits	Feminine Hygiene Products (for female soldiers)	Fly Strips
Floss	Hot Cocoa	Hairbrushes	Fly Swatters
Mouthwash	Microwave popcorn	Hand Lotion	Pre-Paid Phone Cards
Toothbrushes	GAMES	Hand Sanitizers (waterless)	Shoe Insole Cushions
Toothpaste	Board Games/Card Games	Nail Clippers	Socks (cushioned)
DRINK	Checkers -Chess (travel size)	Q-Tips	Sunglasses (black - no brand names)
Coffee	Balls, Mitts, Frisbees	Razors (disposable)	Sweatbands (or panti-liners for use in helmets)
Coffee Creamer	Crossword Puzzles	Shampoo and Soap	Harmonicas
Powdered Drink Mix	Hacky Sacks, and YoYo's	Sunscreen	Kazoos
Tea Mix (sweet)	MUSIC-MOVIES	Tissues (heavy duty - Puffs)	SEASONAL
Tea bags	DVDs or CDs	Toilet Paper (and travel size)	Canned turkey and Thanksgiving food items
KoolAid bursts – (to freeze)		Tylenol (individual packets)	
		Wash Rags	

The Miracle of Christmas *(Continued from Page 1)*

The Main Street Theater invited the Guardian Angels and friends to come see another private movie at the theater. The doors were only open to us, our friends, and families with the understanding that the kids could be themselves. They could sit in wheel chairs and hog up the aisles, they could get up and walk around and fidget as much as they needed to and they could enjoy themselves without being afraid of others' judgmental glances or comments. For many, this was the first time their parents were able to take their children to a movie theater. There were hugs and tears and children who haven't been so excited in a long time were bouncing off the walls from the new life that had been just opened up to them. Oh, and the theater owners did this for free ... it was a gift of love. THAT was an amazing blessing. But it wasn't the true miracle.

On the day of what I lovingly call "The Nightmare Before Christmas" (which somehow always falls on the night before the Jesus Party) a few volunteers and I take about 8 hours and go through all the bags of love for the kids to be sure that everyone is accounted for and that each gift fits the child and their development. Well, around 1am we realized that there were 7 children who didn't have gifts. Out of 96 angel tags this was awesome, but still a problem. Now, we have been doing this enough years to know that most times it works out, but not always. So we worked and fixed and pieced some things so we at least had a few "gently used" toys for each child. It wasn't what you would call good, but the children would at least get something. Then, on Friday afternoon, the day of the Jesus Party and Angel Tree Distribution, a gentleman walked in and asked what our Angel Tree was. He said he had heard about it and was panicked to think he was too late. He said his daughter had been born with a heart condition and after her open heart surgery, he told God if He healed his daughter he would go and adopt all of the children that were left on whatever this Angel Tree was at a church that he had never attended. Well, on Friday, his daughter was given a clean bill of health. So to celebrate, he honored his part of his bargain with God. He went straight from the hospital to the church, where he adopted the remaining children who were getting used toys, and a few hours later, he had purchased and brought back what he felt were appropriate gifts and then sat down to dinner with us. THAT was an amazing blessing. But it wasn't the true miracle.

Santa Claus came and children stood in line for an hour to sit on his lap to share both their excitement and their wishes. He gently calmed their fears and praised them for being brave and reassured them that they were indeed loved. And for many, this was the first time the children would ever be able to visit Santa because of their disability. This was the year the giving spirit of Santa became real to them. This is when the magic of a child's Christmas was unleashed. THAT was an amazing blessing. But it wasn't the true miracle.

At the Christmas Jesus Party, there were about 150 people, eating food that was donated. Food that was prepared by parents who love to give and a few young adults who have disabilities and wanted to become a part of the ministry's preparations for the first time. There were young adults who used to come as children who are now bringing their children so they can be a part of this life that they love so much. There were gifts given to teary-eyed parents who now not only have Christmas gifts to give their children, but also are adults who had a wonderful evening watching their children run around and play and just be themselves. There was a Santa who was blessed as much as he was a blessing. There were children who had a wonderful time playing and singing and laughing and making crafts and simply being loved. There was a stranger who came to enjoy a meal with disabled children instead of going back home to be with his healed child directly after being obedient to God during the final hour of need. There were those who helped wash dishes, who helped distribute the bags of goodies and carry them to cars. There were people who stayed and cleaned up and children who mopped floors...

And THAT, my friends, IS the miracle. It isn't all that we do for these children and these families. It isn't the money that we give and it isn't the shopping and it isn't the blood, sweat and tears... Rather it is simple LOVE that is the miracle. It is the obedience to God when He tells us to give, to hug, to share and to laugh. Love is God's greatest gift... and the most precious miracle of my Christmas Season. It is something to behold and something to watch. Thank you to each and everyone for all of your parts in God's miracle this year. You all are amazing, and have made such a difference in so many lives.

May God Bless You all.

- Kelli Harding

JANUARY 2012 ~ EAST FAIRFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 COMMUNION</p> <p>9:30-10:30 Worship Service 10:30-11:00 Coffee Time 10:45-11:45 Sunday School & KFC</p>	<p>2 <i>(Pastor's Day Off)</i> NO SCHOOL</p> <p>10:00-11:30 Bible Study</p> <p>No Cub Scouts 6:00 Cub Leaders Mtg 7:30- 9:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00 AM Men's Coffee Group</p> <p>7:00 Finance 7:30 Adm. Council</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>5</p> <p><i>(Conference payments must be <u>received</u> by this date)</i></p> <p>6:30 Sew Heavenly 7:00 Prayer Ministry</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5:30 4-H Meeting</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:30-10:30 Worship Service 10:30-11:00 Coffee Time 10:45-11:45 Sunday School & KFC</p>	<p>9 <i>(Pastor's Day Off)</i></p> <p>10:00-11:30 Bible Study</p> <p>6:00-7:00 Cub Scouts 7:00 Youth Disciples 7:30-9:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00 AM Men's Coffee Group</p> <p>7:00 Membership Care Team</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:00-7:00 Kids Club 7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00 Prayer Ministry</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:00 Pray for Missions 9:30-10:30 Worship Service - Missionary Speaker 10:30-11:00 Coffee Time 10:45-11:45 Sunday School & KFC 6:30- 8:00 Element 79 Youth at Crestview High School</p>	<p>16 <i>(Pastor's Day Off)</i> Martin Luther King Jr. NO SCHOOL</p> <p>10-11:30 Bible Study</p> <p>NO Cub Scouts 7:30-9:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00 AM Men's Coffee Group</p> <p>7:00 – 9:00 4H- Fairfield Farmhands (Fieldhouse)</p> <p>8:00 PM Janie's Stephen Ministry Supervision</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Guardian Angels Training 7:00 Prayer Ministry</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:00 Guardian Angels Jesus Party</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:30-10:30 Worship Service 10:30-11:00 Coffee Time 10:45-11:45 Sunday School & KFC</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:00-11:30 Bible Study</p> <p>6:00- 7:00 Cub Scouts 7:00 Youth Disciples 7:30- 9:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>24 <i>(Year End Reports Due)</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Men's Coffee Group</p> <p><i>Newsletter Deadline</i></p> <p>7:00 Trustees</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:30 Newsletter Mailing Committee 7:00 Prayer Ministry</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:30-10:30 Worship Service 10:30-11:00 Coffee Time 10:45-11:45 Sunday School & KFC 1:30 Fellowship Hall in Use (April Stear)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:00-11:30 Bible Study 12:00 Joy Circle Meeting 6:00- 7:00 Cub Scouts 7:00 Youth Disciples 7:30- 9:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:00 AM Men's Coffee Group</p> <p>7:00 Finance 7:30 Council</p>				

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Evalyn Morris
 2 Joe Chaplow, Corky Courter, Andrew Wiley
 3 Andrea Rupert, Wayne Wolfgang
 4 Jaden Lopresti, Teri Morris
 5 Ross Porter
 6 Verna Jo Jones, Marilyn Mong
 7 Frances Burt
 8 Brandon Davner
 9 Marna Cross, Dorothy McQuiston
 10 Shirley Cusick
 11 Becky Knepper, Jan Selby
 12 Donna Brubaker, Maggie Guglielmo,
 Chad and Brandon Veiock, Charlotte Vollnogle
 13 Kyle Crowl
 14 Ruth M. Hawkins, Tom Hawkins, Blake Sell
 15 Bryan Henderson, Vesta Prus
 16 Alex Holsinger, Tim Robins
 18 Brenna Auer, Cy Magill
 19 Sue Kariher, Allison Kyle, Shayne Shingleton
 21 Bettianne Jones
 22 Kathy Eppley, Mary Feezle, Brian Robins
 23 Christine Crook
 24 JP Baer, Rebecca Hays, Laura Waters
 25 Aaron Bable
 26 John Rieseck
 27 Mitchell Auer, Rhonda Good, Cady McLaughlin,
 Joel Webber
 29 Mitch Cattrell
 30 Mark Adams, Kent Baker, David Jones, Matt Sell
 31 Ramon Berger, Diane Hart



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES



3 Wayne & Susan Cope
 4 Neal & Janie Crowl
 5 Charles & Lois Dickey
 5 Larry & Patty Walters
 10 Joe & Cindy Rieseck
 11 Bill & Barb Crook
 13 Larry & Denise Webber
 24 Arnold & Mary McLaughlin
 28 Bud & Phyllis Webber

CLASS RESPONSIBLE FOR COFFEE TIME



Jan. - Helping Hands
 Feb. - New Beginnings
 Mar. - Loyal Workers
 Apr. - Pairs and Spares



The Christmas Gift

JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH ~ THE WAY STATION

The Way Station is a Christian Compassionate Ministry that is supported by individuals, area churches and corporations. Your support, contributions, and volunteer service are critical to our success.



**Food ~ Shelter ~ Clothing ~ Child Services
 Youth Services ~ Wheels to Work**

Mark your offering envelope: "Fund # 37 - Way Station"

9:30 AM Worship Services

Date	Nursery	Jr Church	Greeters	Liturgist	Speaker or Event
Jan. 1	Anita Cusick	Cyndi Straney	Dwain Hawkins	Dick Sell	COMMUNION
Jan. 8	Kim Burkey	Chris Baker	Shawn & Julie Magill and Cy	Edie Boles	
Jan. 15	Miranda Barnett	Anita Cusick	Keith & Carol Wilhelm	Jon Vollnogle	Guest Missionary Speakers
Jan. 22	Alisha Auer	Pam Boyarko	Elaine Sell	Cindy Wright	
Jan. 29	Anita Cusick	Cyndi Straney	Zelda Cook	Grant Roberts	

**East Fairfield
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Issue: JANUARY 2012
Printed: December 21, 2011
Editor: Denise M. Webber



*Working, playing, and praying together,
in our faith journeys, to share Jesus Christ,
with one another, our community, and the world.*

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*Deadline for the FEBRUARY Issue is
Tuesday, January 24, 2012
Email articles to
efumc@comcast.net*

COOKBOOK KORNER



PIEROGHIE CASSEROLE



9 lasagna noodles
6-8 average potatoes
3/4 lb. Longhorn cheese
1 stick oleo
2 medium onions
Milk (enough to mash the potatoes)
Salt / Pepper / Onion Salt

- Cook lasagna, then drain and rinse in cold water.
- Boil potatoes, season with salt, pepper, and onion salt. Mash potatoes, adding milk.
- Dice cheese and add to potatoes.
- Sautee onions and butter.

- In a 9x13 pan, layer noodles and potatoes, ending with noodles.
- Pour onions and butter sauce over top. Cover and bake at 350° for half hour. Serves 6-8.